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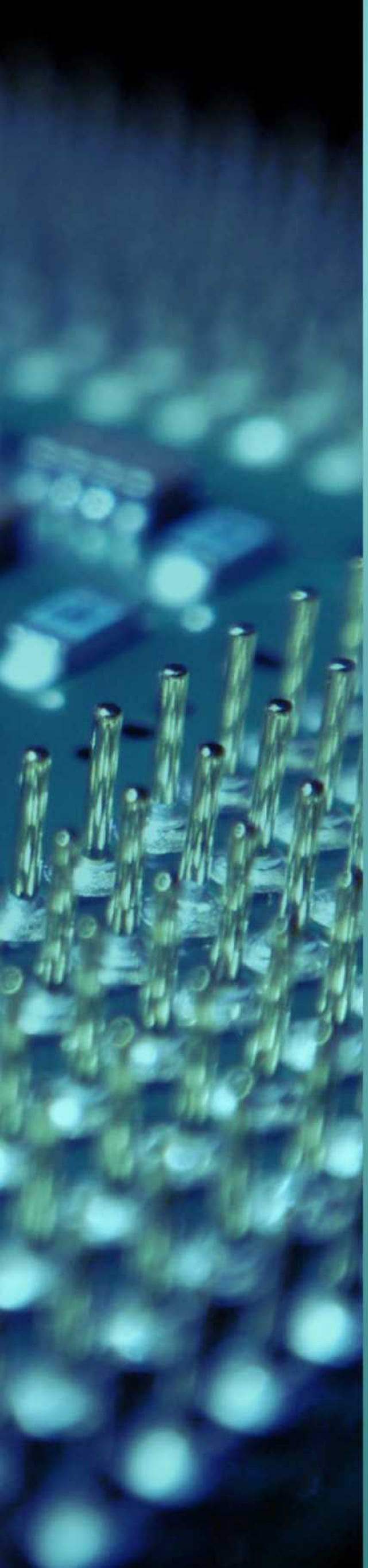




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SUMMARY

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NEW SELF-DRIVING CAR SAFETY DATA **06**

'RIDE ALONG 2' ENDS BOX OFFICE REIGN OF 'FORCE AWAKENS' **14**

REVIEW: UNDER ARMOUR'S FITNESS GADGETS NEED TO SHAPE UP **18**

PBS TO AIR BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT BROADWAY HIT 'HAMILTON' **28**

HEART-POUNDING ACTION? HOLLYWOOD CAN NOW MEASURE THAT **32**

APPLE DEFIES INDUSTRY TREND AS PC SALES FALL AGAIN **38**

BOWIE'S 'BLACKSTAR' DEBUTS AT NO. 1, FIRST US CHART-TOPPER **44**

THE EHANG 184: A NEW FRONTIER IN PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION **48**

SPACEWALK ABORTED AFTER WATER LEAKS INTO ASTRONAUT'S HELMET **70**

GOOD EVIDENCE FOR 9TH PLANET IN SOLAR SYSTEM **80**

TA-NEHISI COATES AMONG FINALISTS FOR BOOK CRITICS AWARDS **88**

iTUNES REVIEW **90**

UNEASY TIMES: WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR AT DAVOS THIS YEAR **106**

NETFLIX CHIEF SAYS 2016 WILL BRING EMPHASIS ON FAMILY SHOWS **118**

BUILD A BETTER WEATHER NETWORK? NEW YORK TAKES THE DARE **124**

HIGH COURT WILL HEAR MICROSOFT APPEAL OVER XBOX LAWSUIT **132**

WHATSAPP TO DROP RENEWAL FEES FOR THE MESSAGING SERVICE **134**

TECH AT THE SYMPHONY: BOSTON ORCHESTRA LOANING PATRONS iPADS **136**

CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF OSCARS GROW OVER DIVERSITY OF NOMINEES **140**

RESEARCHERS CONFIRM SITE OF HANGINGS FOR SALEM WITCH TRIALS **148**

LOOKING AHEAD WITH JOHN LEGEND: GRAMMYS, GOSLING AND A BABY **150**

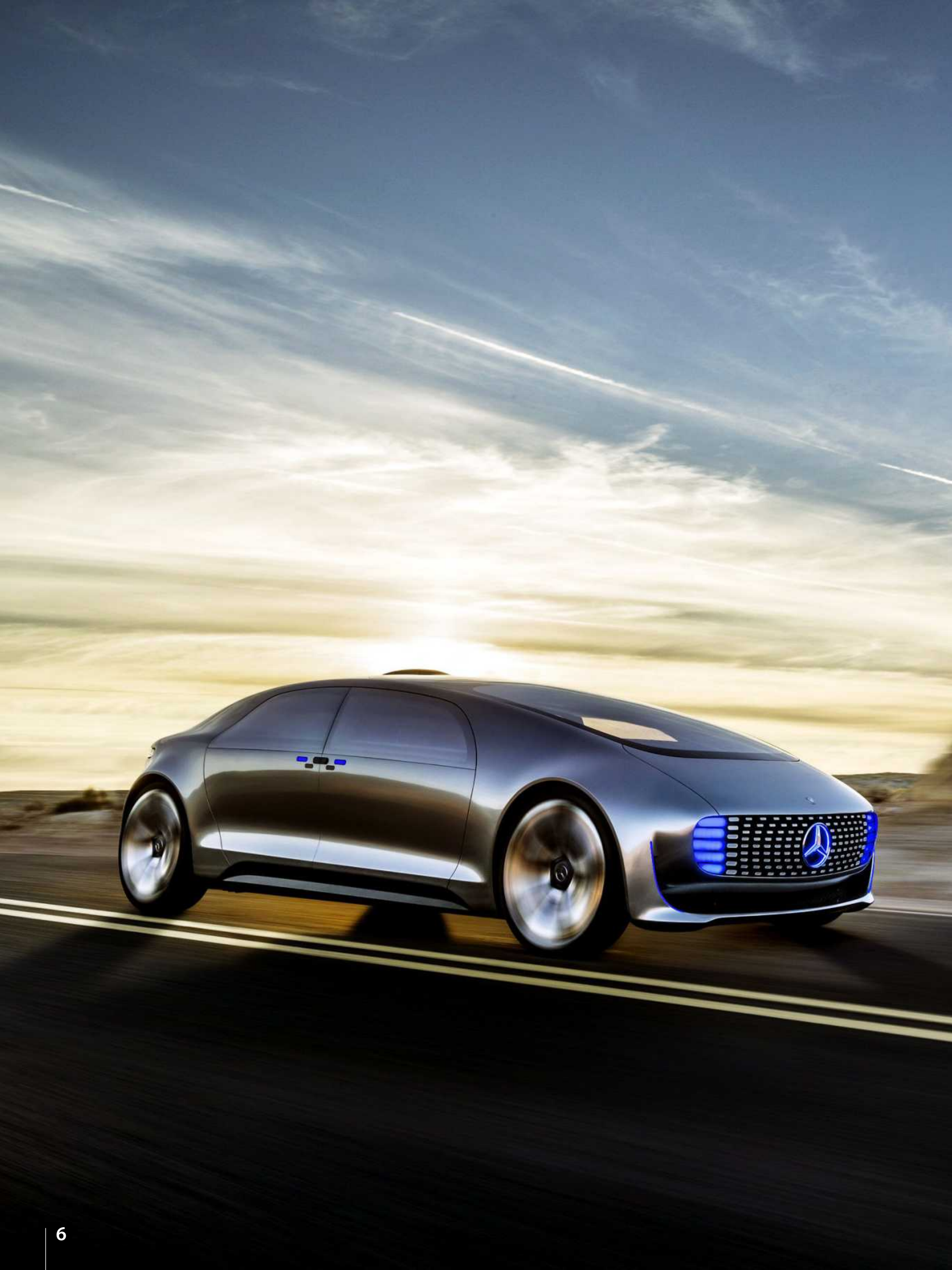
SCIENCE: SUPPORT LEG BREAKS AS SPACEX ROCKET LANDS ON OCEAN BARGE **158**

HEALTH: FIRST LADY, SCHOOL MEAL DIRECTORS MAY BE HEADED FOR TRUCE **168**

CLINTON SAYS FBI HAS NOT CONTACTED HER ABOUT EMAILS **176**

WIKIPEDIA GETS ANOTHER SOURCE OF CASH FOR 15TH BIRTHDAY **178**

TWITTER DISRUPTION SILENCES SWATHS OF US, EUROPE **184**





QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT NEW SELF-DRIVING CAR SAFETY DATA

While self-driving cars already are being tested on public roads, newly released safety data support the cautionary view that the technology has many miles to go before people can sleep at the wheel.

That doesn't mean relief is decades away for commute-weary drivers. It's possible, even likely, that within a few years, mainstream cars will be able to drive themselves reliably - on routes they have mastered, in weather they can handle, and on the premise that a driver will be ready to take over in moments.

Traditional automakers and technology companies such as Google are investing hundreds of millions - probably billions - of dollars in a race to market.


A GATEWAY TO THE DESIGN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
02



Google was one of seven companies required to disclose to California's Department of Motor Vehicles the number of times a trained test driver had to seize the wheel either because of a technology failure or because a prototype car was driving unsafely.

The DMV released those reports Tuesday. The data they contain are the most detailed look yet at how safely the prototypes are performing.

Some questions and answers about what the data reveal about the state of the technology:

WHAT BECAME CLEAR THIS WEEK?

It became clear that even Google, which has done the most testing in California by far, is not on the cusp of perfecting a car that doesn't need a driver. And that, for now at least, traditional automakers remain far behind.

The data on "disengagements" of the self-driving technology document the gap.

Google reported that, in 424,000 miles of testing since autumn 2014, its cars needed human help 341 times due to serious safety issues. The leader of its self-driving car project, Chris Urmson, said that while he considers the results encouraging, they show room for improvement. After all, by the company's own analysis, there were 11 instances in which the car would have had an accident if its driver had not taken over.

Five other companies combined said their prototypes drove about 36,000 miles in the same time period - and needed human help more than 2,400 times. Those five companies were Nissan, Mercedes-Benz, Audi, and parts suppliers Bosch and Delphi.

The seventh company, Tesla Motors, reported no problems - but did not report that it drove any test miles, either.

WAIT, TESLAS ARE PERFECT?

No. Just go online and you'll find videos where the "autopilot" feature already in some Tesla sedans drove erratically enough that the driver grabbed the wheel.

The fact that Tesla reported no "disengagements" was puzzling. It could reflect a company interpretation of the reporting requirements.

Tesla isn't talking. Asked about its problem-free report, spokeswoman Khobi Brooklyn said the company was not releasing any details. The California Department of Motor Vehicles said it was still reviewing all reports.

WHAT DO OTHER COMPANIES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE DATA?

Google's report offered the most detail and explanation, by far. Other reports were not nearly as descriptive.

A spokesman for Nissan, which has said it wants to have "commercially viable autonomous drive vehicles" by 2020, said disengagements are an expected part of testing.

"The timing of Nissan's on-road autonomous vehicle testing sessions was as planned and consistent with our autonomous vehicle development schedule," company spokesman Steve Yaeger wrote in an email.

Other companies did not respond to requests for comment.




The future of
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WHAT ARE THE BLIND SPOTS IN THE DATA?

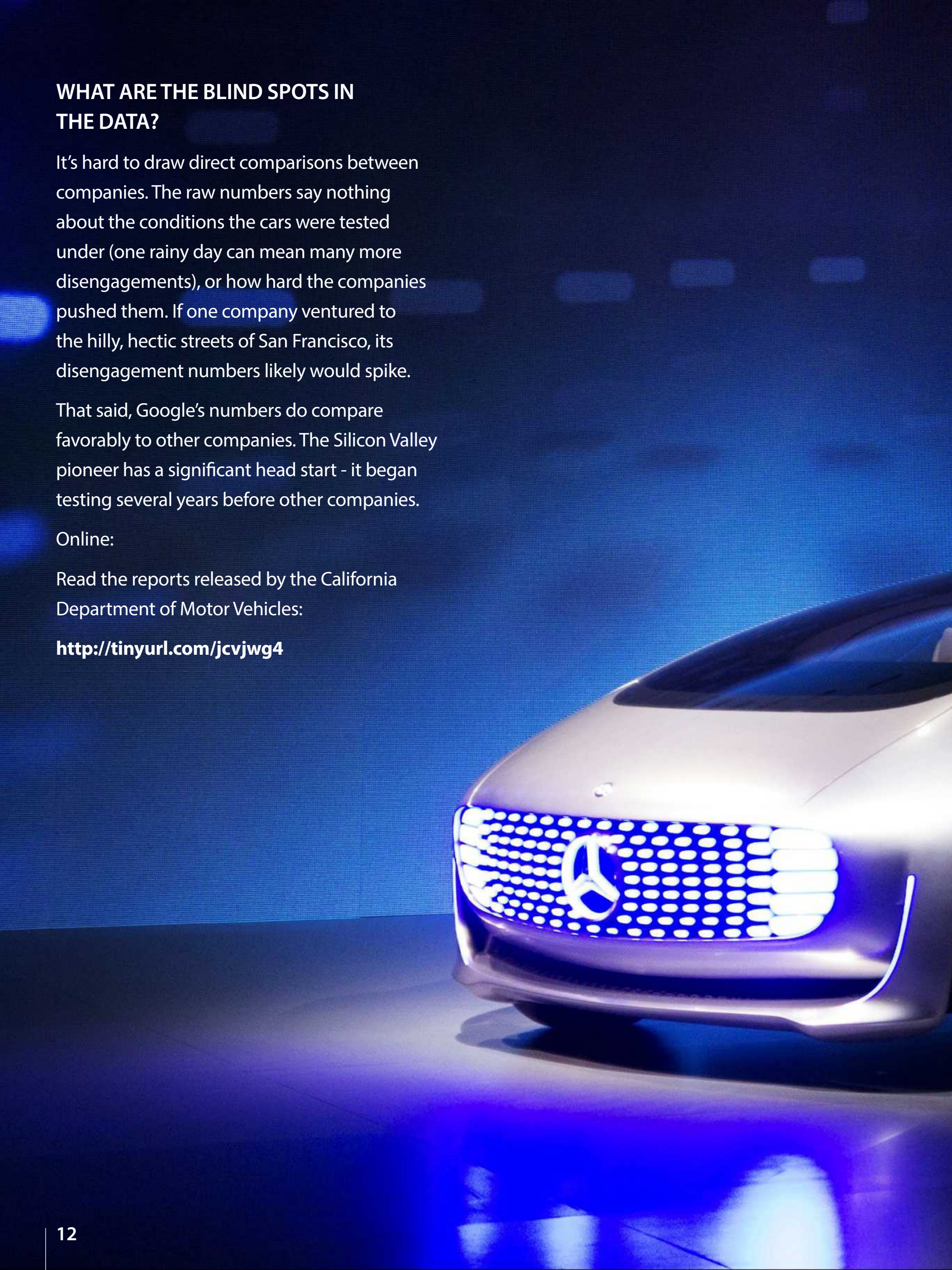
It's hard to draw direct comparisons between companies. The raw numbers say nothing about the conditions the cars were tested under (one rainy day can mean many more disengagements), or how hard the companies pushed them. If one company ventured to the hilly, hectic streets of San Francisco, its disengagement numbers likely would spike.

That said, Google's numbers do compare favorably to other companies. The Silicon Valley pioneer has a significant head start - it began testing several years before other companies.

Online:

Read the reports released by the California Department of Motor Vehicles:

http://tinyurl.com/jcvjwg4





'RIDE ALONG 2' ENDS BOX OFFICE REIGN OF 'FORCE AWAKENS'

Kevin Hart and Ice Cube have ended the monthlong box-office reign of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

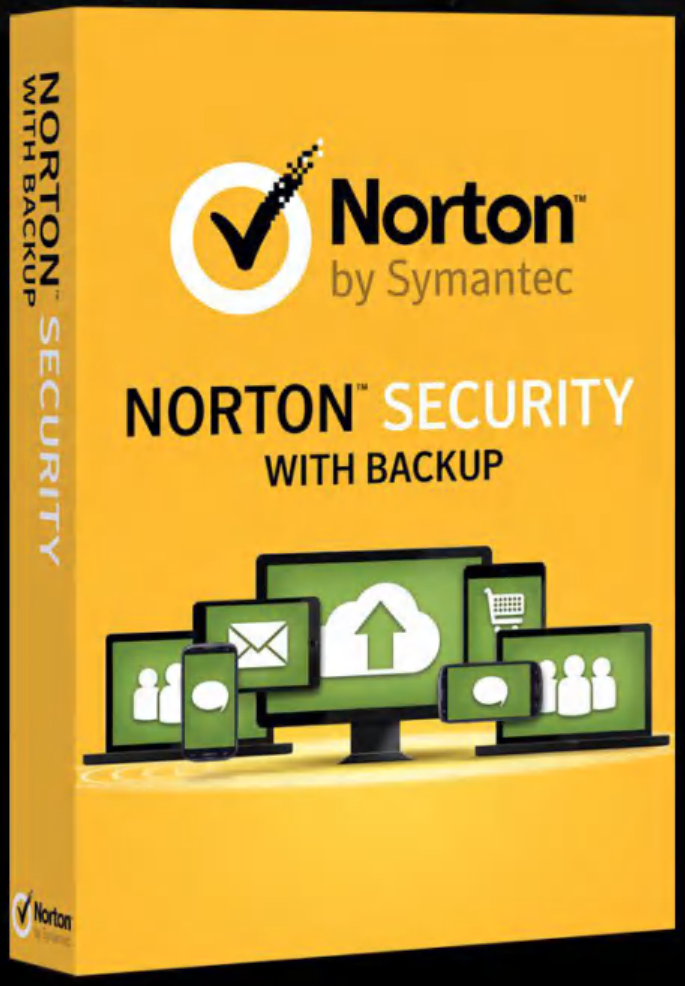
"Ride Along 2" topped the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend with an estimated $41.5 million over four days, according to studio estimates Monday. The Universal release took in an estimated $35.3 million Friday through Sunday.

In second was Alejandro Inarritu's 1820s frontier saga "The Revenant," which earned $39 million over four days following its leading 12 Oscar nominations on Thursday. In two weeks of release, the Leonardo DiCaprio-starring film has made nearly $100 million.

"The Force Awakens" slid to third with an estimated $32.6 million through Monday.

Michael Bays'"13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" opened with $19.7 million in four days, performing strongest in the South.

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REVIEW: UNDER ARMOUR'S FITNESS GADGETS NEED TO SHAPE UP

You may know Under Armour mostly for its heavily marketed line of athletic sportswear. But the company has bigger ambitions: It's jumping into the crowded market for wearable gadgets that aim to help both athletes and couch potatoes track their fitness.

Its $400 package, called the UA HealthBox, comes out this Friday. Made in partnership with gadget maker HTC, the HealthBox has a wrist tracker, a heart-rate chest strap and a wireless bathroom scale. Other components - including shoes embedded with tracking sensors - are on the way.

That's a lot of goodies, even for an avid runner like me, who's accustomed to wearing multiple watches to track workouts. But does it make sense to get all these gadgets from one company? Under Armour isn't first with any of these, and rival products do many things as well or better.

To find out, I tested Under Armour's products and apps over more than 300 miles of running, including seven races over the past two weeks at Florida's Disney World and California's Disneyland.

FOR EXERCISE

On its face, the UA Band is just another wristworn fitness tracker for measuring steps, sleep and heart rate. And there's an asterisk, too: The device disables heart-rate tracking during runs and spin class. Under Armour wants you to use its UA Heart Rate chest strap instead, as wrist sensors aren't as reliable.

Although the chest strap is a pain to wear, there's an advantage to having those devices working together. A small light on the Band changes color as your pulse increases with workout intensity.

I aimed for the highest intensity - red - during shorter races, but for full and half marathons, red meant I wasn't conserving enough energy for the final miles. The colored lights help make up for the fact that the Band's display is hard to read during runs.

Although the Band doesn't have GPS, it does an adequate job at measuring distance during workouts. It does borrow your phone's GPS to track route information.





FOR SLEEP

The Band's battery lasts a few days under normal use, which is comparable to Fitbits, but longer than smartwatches and Microsoft's Band 2 fitness tracker. You can recharge halfway in just 15 minutes, which is important if you're wearing the gadget all night.

As is typical with fitness trackers, the Band automatically detects how long and how well you sleep. It goes further in singling out your last pulse reading before you wake up. That's your resting heart rate; a high rate could suggest overtraining - or simply that you're out of shape.



FOR WEIGHT CONTROL

The UA Scale syncs weight and body-fat percentage with the company's UA Record app, so you can track your weight. Because it's a pain to log every single meal, Record lets you simply rate the day's meals as light, medium or heavy - though it doesn't distinguish between calories from vegetables or junk food.

Though charts help you monitor trends, there's none that clearly connects calorie intake and exercise to weight. Under Armour says it's working on that, but there's no firm date.

THE ADD-ONS

The three HealthBox devices are sold separately, but because they are designed to work together, Under Armour is pushing the $400 package. It's a reasonable price, even though it might present a hurdle to digital-fitness newcomers.

The company has also partnered with audio maker Harman to make $250 wireless earphones with heart-rate tracking through the ear. It's not coming until this spring, and Under Armour is still testing whether measurements are good enough to offer similar color tracking on the Band. I would prefer that over a chest strap. (For now, Under Armour has earphones without the heart rate for $70 less.)

Also coming down the pike are shoes with built-in sensors for tracking runs. Ideally, these might let you ditch your phone and other GPS devices - at least so long as you hit a pace of 10 minutes per mile or faster. That's a high threshold for many recreational runners.

As a slowpoke, I got credit for only 14.3 of the 26.2 miles in a marathon. And it broke the marathon into two, possibly because I stopped midway to ride a roller coaster. (Hey, it's Disney!) That's one flaw with automated tracking. Normally, you can just hit pause and resume.

If you have the phone with you, the shoes work with the company's MapMyRun app to give steadier pace readings, as those based on GPS can be erratic. Under Armour is still working to get that data displayed on the Band.





THE APPS

The dashboard of the UA Record app is divided into four quadrants for sleep, calories, workouts and daily steps. A circle in the middle is for your weight - normally hidden so you can take screenshots to boast to your friends. While other fitness apps tend to make you fish around for information, the Record's quadrant design gives you a nice summary, and you can tap on any to dig deeper.

Even if you don't own any Under Armour gadgets, the free app will pull in data from Fitbit, Garmin, Jawbone and other accounts. You still need your device's app to sync data, though. And this could lead to double and triple counting your exercise totals.

The app is also supposed to tap IBM's Watson artificial-intelligence system to analyze your wellness patterns and make recommendations. Here, the "insights" I've gotten so far seem more like broad observations applicable to men in my age group than anything personalized. The company says personalization will come later.

For Under Armour to compete with more established gadget companies, including Fitbit, Garmin and Apple, its devices and apps need to do much more together than products that work individually. In my weeks of testing, I see the beginnings of how all this syncing can help. But it's just that for now - a beginning.




80:51

PBS TO AIR BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT BROADWAY HIT 'HAMILTON'

A roundup of news Monday from the Television Critics Association winter meeting, at which TV networks and streaming services are presenting details on upcoming programs.

PBS is getting a behind-the-scenes look at the hottest ticket on Broadway, "Hamilton."

"Hamilton's America," a documentary about the musical's creation, will air this fall on the "Great Performances" showcase, Paula Kerger, president and CEO of PBS, said Monday.

The inventive, biographical hip-hop show about the life of Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton is the work of Lin-Manuel Miranda, who stars as the founding father.

The documentary is expected to include the musical's creative origins, some footage of the musical and interviews with Miranda and others, PBS said.

PBS has a track record with Miranda: In 2009, it aired a documentary about him and other cast members of his Tony Award-winning musical, "In the Heights."

Public television's commitment to the arts makes it the logical home for "Hamilton's America," Kerger said. "Who else is going to do this?"

Kerger added that other outlets wanted to get in business with Miranda and "we're grateful and proud" to be his partner.

"Hamilton's America" is produced by RadicalMedia ("What Happened, Miss Simone?") and Thirteen Productions LLC for station WNET and PBS.

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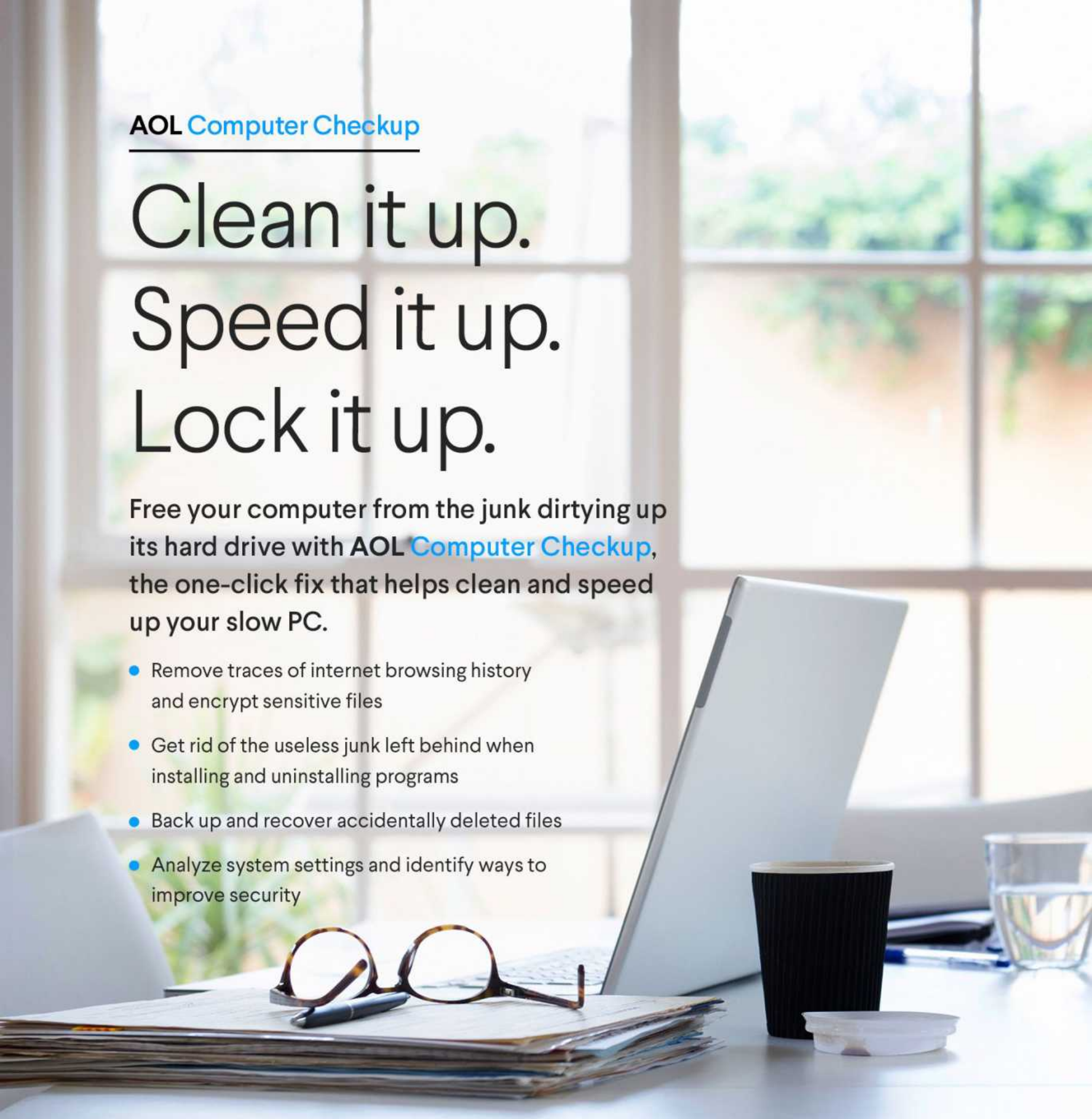
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HEART-POUNDING ACTION? HOLLYWOOD CAN NOW MEASURE THAT



Ever been told a movie is a heart-pounding thriller that'll have you on the edge of your seat? Thanks to wearable technology, Hollywood has the tools to prove it.

20th Century Fox says that it used a wearable wristband on over 100 people in test screenings for Oscar-contender "The Revenant" before it hit theaters in December. It's unclear if it's the first studio to obtain this sort of data from audiences, but experts say it's unlikely to be the last.





Image: Luke Hickman



By measuring heart rate, skin moisture, movement, and audible gasps, Fox found the Leonardo DiCaprio vehicle had 14 heart-pounding moments where it measured significant jumps in people's heart rates. Fifteen scenes evoked fight-or-flight responses, as determined by a range of indicators taken together. The audience was also almost completely motionless for just over half of the 2.6-hour movie - in other words, says the studio, on the edge of their seats.

George Dewey, Fox's senior vice president of digital, said the data complements traditional written surveys and focus groups. One of its advantages, he said, is that it cuts through some of the statistical "noise" that results when audience members influence each other after the movie.

"This is a pure way to measure individual audience response," he said.

Companies like the InVVnerscope Research unit of measurement and ratings giant Nielsen have been doing such biometric-based audience testing for nearly a decade, said Carl Marci, Nielsen's chief neuroscientist. But Hollywood, he said, has been shy about applying these techniques to movies due to the time and expense involved.

Taking such measurements has previously involved bringing viewers into the lab one at a time, where they can be monitored by medical-grade equipment that tracks everything from brainwaves to eye movement. The spread of inexpensive wearable sensors, however, is bringing costs down to the point where even movie producers with tight budgets can consider them.

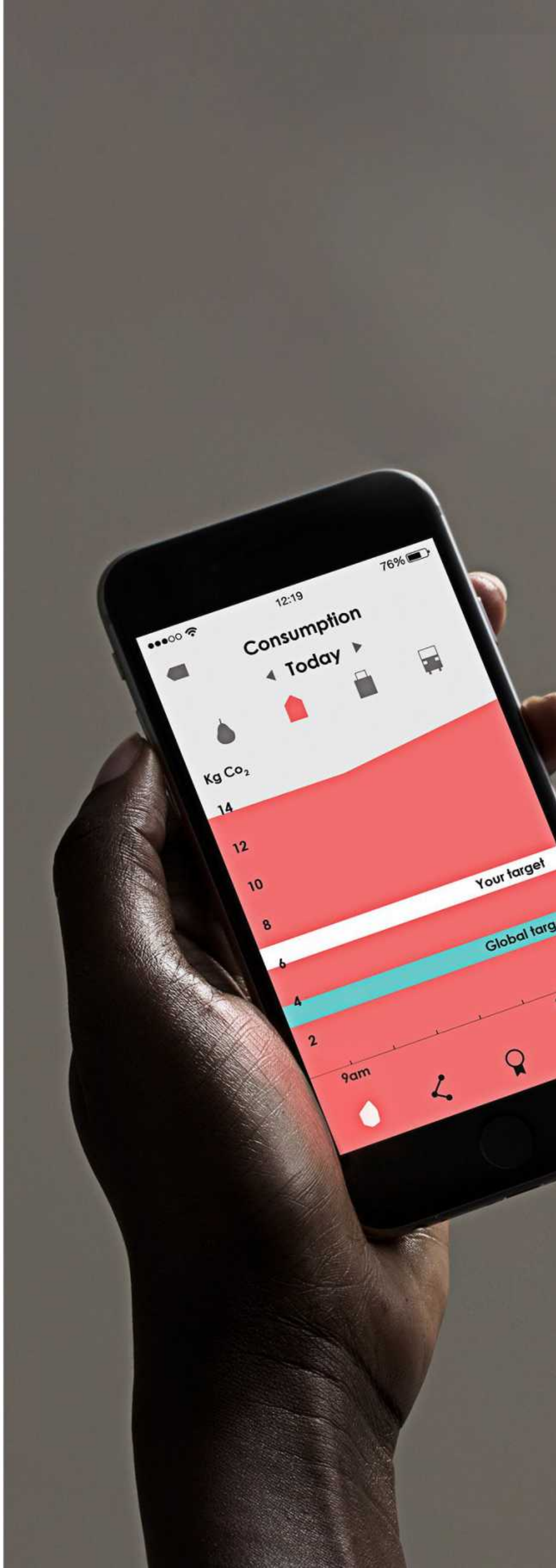
Sensors that are "wearable and smaller and lighter and less expensive" are starting to hit the marketplace, Marci said. "This is one example of the wave."

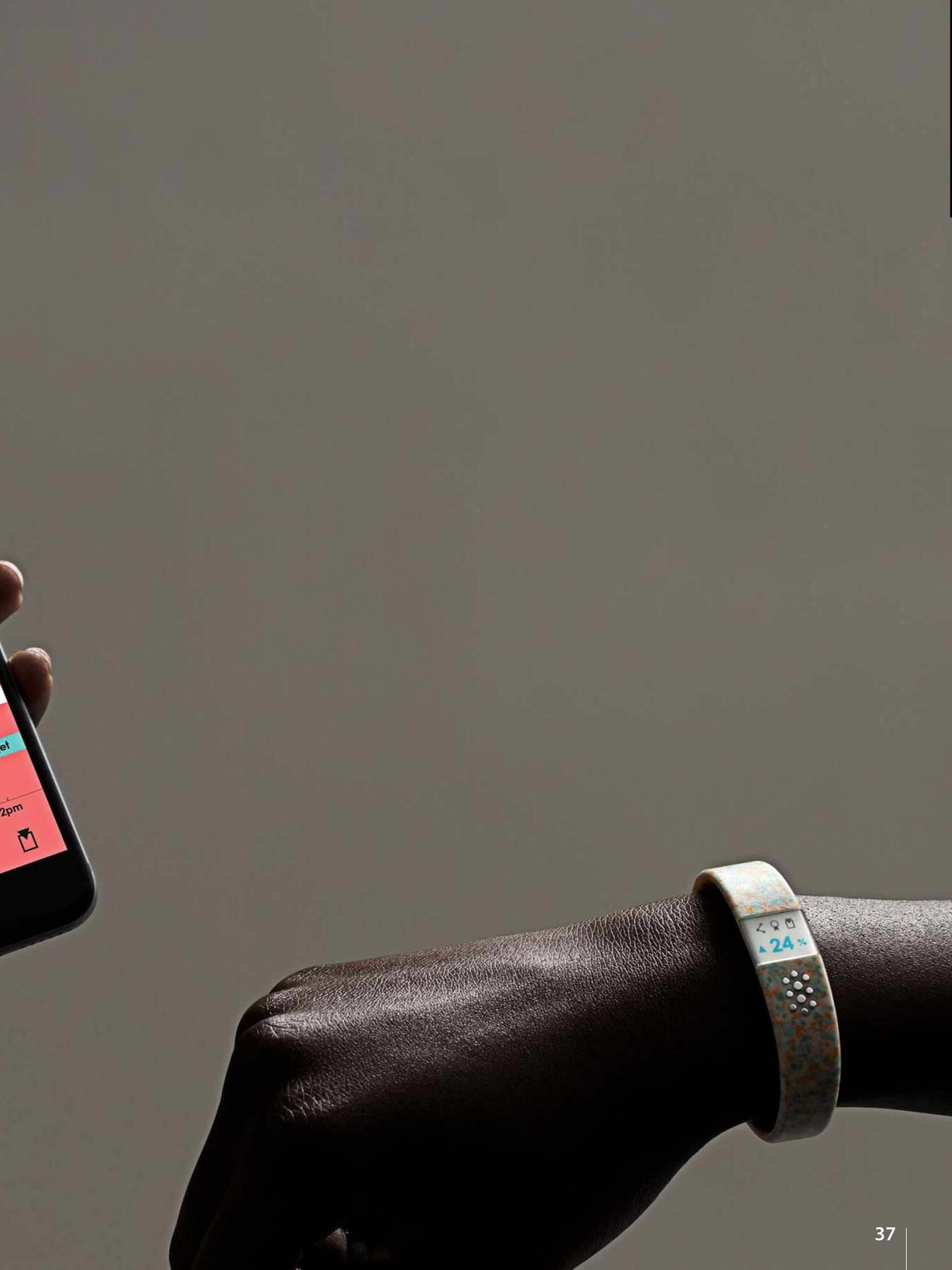
Lightwave Inc., the technology company Fox hired to run the test, said it opted for the sensor-laden wristband to avoid "white coat syndrome" - the sort of elevated blood pressure and heart rate people experience when they know they're being tested. (Or just going to the doctor.)

"The participant feels like they're just going to a movie," said Lightwave CEO Rana June.

For now, Fox plans to use the technology for marketing - for instance, to highlight scenes that provoke more of a reaction among women in advertising that targets them. But "Revenant" director Alejandro Inarritu also saw the results, Dewey acknowledged. And it's not hard to imagine such pulse and respiratory data influencing the way directors and editors put together their films, much the way test-audience reactions can lead filmmakers to drop certain scenes, or even to change a movie's ending entirely.

Dewey, however, played down the likely impact on the moviemaking process. "Nothing's ever going to replace the artistry of filmmaking," he said.




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APPLE DEFIES INDUSTRY TREND AS PC SALES FALL AGAIN



Apple keeps defying a PC industry trend: While other major computer-makers saw shipments fall in 2015, Apple increased the number of Macs it shipped worldwide last year, according to estimates from two research firms on Tuesday.

Total PC shipments have been declining, industrywide, for the last four years, as consumers are waiting longer to buy new models and many are turning to smartphones or tablets. Even last summer's release of Windows 10 - Microsoft's new operating software - failed to boost overall sales.

All told, manufacturers shipped a total of 288.7 million PCs last year, down 8 percent from 2014, according to researchers at Gartner. Analysts at International Data Corp., using different methodology, put the total at 276 million and the decline at 10.4 percent.


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Apple, however, saw an increase of roughly 6 percent, according to both firms. While other major PC-makers have seen ups and downs, Apple alone has enjoyed gains in each of the last three years.

Big manufacturers like Lenovo, HP and Dell still sell far more computers than Apple. Industry leader Lenovo shipped 57 million PCs last year, while estimates for Apple are just under 21 million.

Still, analysts say Apple benefits from its reputation as a premium brand in the United States and Europe. It's also been making inroads in Asia. Gartner analyst Mikako Kitagawa noted that Apple has been opening retail stores in China, which is now the second-largest PC market in the world.

Experts trace the PC industry's slump to the introduction of more powerful smartphones and tablets in recent years. Even Apple saw a slight decline in Mac shipments in 2012, when some buyers opted for iPads instead. The slump has also hurt chipmakers like Intel and other companies that make PC components, while forcing software makers to re-design their products for smaller, mobile devices.

Nearly every major PC maker now makes tablets, as well. Lenovo has also moved into smartphones, buying the Motorola phone business from Google in 2014. But tablet and smartphone sales are also slowing, as more people already own them.








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Industry hopes are now turning to new "hybrid" computers, or tablets with detachable keyboards, which are touted as combining the best features of PCs and tablets. Sales of those devices are still small, but growing. IDC analyst Jay Chou said his firm expects industrywide shipments of traditional PCs will fall another 3 percent this year, but the addition of hybrids could turn that total into an overall increase of 1 percent.

Analysts also blamed last year's weak PC numbers on economic weakness in Asia and the end of a 2014 buying surge that followed Microsoft's decision to end support for Windows XP, an older version of its widely used operating software. An expected boost from the new Windows 10 was undercut by Microsoft's decision to give free software upgrades to owners of older machines.



BOWIE'S 'BLACKSTAR' DEBUTS AT NO. 1, FIRST US CHART-TOPPER





Image: © Corbis. All Rights Reserved.



David Bowie's last album, "Blackstar," debuted number one on the Billboard charts, the first U.S. chart-topper for the late musician.

Since it was released two days before Bowie died of cancer on Jan. 10, "Blackstar" has sold 174,000 copies, according to Nielsen Music. It's the best sales week for Bowie since Nielsen began electronically tracking music purchases in 1991.

Bowie dislodged the previous No. 1, Adele's "25," which slipped to No. 2 after seven weeks on top.

The 2002 compilation "Best of Bowie" also rocketed up the charts to No. 4 with 94,000 units sold. Altogether, 10 Bowie albums landed on the Billboard 200, which measures sales and streams. The 1972 classic "The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars" rose to No. 21.



THE EHANG 184:

A NEW FRONTIER IN PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION

HUMAN-SIZED DRONES ARE FINALLY HERE

DRONE GETS TONGUES WAGGING AT CES 2016 AND BEYOND

Think back to the very earliest conceptions of futuristic, scientific utopias that you may have read about or even seen on the silver screen, and chances are that flying cars will have made an appearance or seven. Indeed, they have been one of the human race's longest-treasured fantasies - but could they be about to become a 'real thing'? They could if the latest much talked-about drone, the Ehang 184, is anything to go by.

Now, you might think back to CES 2016 - at which the Ehang 184 made its recent much-publicized appearance - and be immediately reminded of all of the previous talk about drones going mainstream. It's only just over two years, for instance, since **Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos confirmed the Kindle giant's plans for a drone-based delivery system**, and **the Ehang 184 wasn't even the only drone on show at CES**.

So, how has it merited so much fuss?



Image: David Paul Morris


EHANG 184
EHANG

THIS NEW DRONE ISN'T JUST ANY DRONE

You see, the big 'claim to fame' of the Ehang 184 - debuted by a Chinese company that was only established two years ago - is a purported ability to carry a human being. Its very name denotes one passenger, eight propellers and four arms, and many a grand claim has already been made for the vehicle in the associated publicity material.

We have already been told that the Ehang 184 is "a disruptive, revolutionary, first-of-its-kind flying vehicle, which transports a single person from Point A to Point B." It is allegedly "the world's first electric, personal Autonomous Aerial Vehicle (AAV) that will achieve humanity's long-standing dream of easy, everyday flight for short-to-medium distances", the blurb adding



that "this first realization of automated flight signifies a major turning point not only for the transportation industry, but also for a huge swath of other fields such as shipping, medical care and retail."

Those are extremely bold words said in reference to a vehicle that the wider world hasn't even seen carrying a human being in flight yet - the swanky launch video from CES **perhaps a little more effective at constructing a touching back-story** than it is at demonstrating the drone's real-world credentials. Indeed, TechCrunch writer Fitz Tepper even speculated that the vehicle was presently little more than a marketing exercise **designed to give something of a halo effect to the company's standard-sized drones like the Ghost**.





EHANG 184 Launch Video from CES2016


EHANG
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IMPRESSIVE TECHNICAL CLAIMS NONETHELESS

But with **Ehang having claimed successful flight for the drone in its native China**, perhaps we ought to take the time of day to consider its technical claims - and they are certainly captivating claims. The company has said that the vehicle flies according to a pre-set flight plan, with passengers only able to make two commands once they are onboard: "take off" and "land".

Both of those instructions are purportedly operated with a single click, and nor is there even any need for a runway, due to the vehicle's vertical takeoff. Once the aircraft is actually in the air, the flight control system assumes responsibility for the occupant's journey, drawing upon real-time data collected from multiple sets of sensors.

But with no one manually controlling the flight, what happens if things go wrong? Unsurprisingly, Ehang has placed a great emphasis on safety in its claims for the 184, stating that the incorporation into the aircraft of full redundancy allows for the continued operation of a normal flight plan - and the associated safety of both passenger and vehicle - in the event of any abnormally functioning parts. The company has declared that its "Fail Safe System" allows an affected 184 to "immediately hover in the sky or land in the nearest possible area to ensure safety."

With the aircraft's other essential technical specifications including a net weight of 440lb or 200kg, 142 horsepower or 106 kW from its eight motors and an average cruising speed of 62


GHANG




GHANG







mph or 100 km/hr on full battery consumption of 14.4 kWh, could the sky truly be the limit for the Ehang 184?

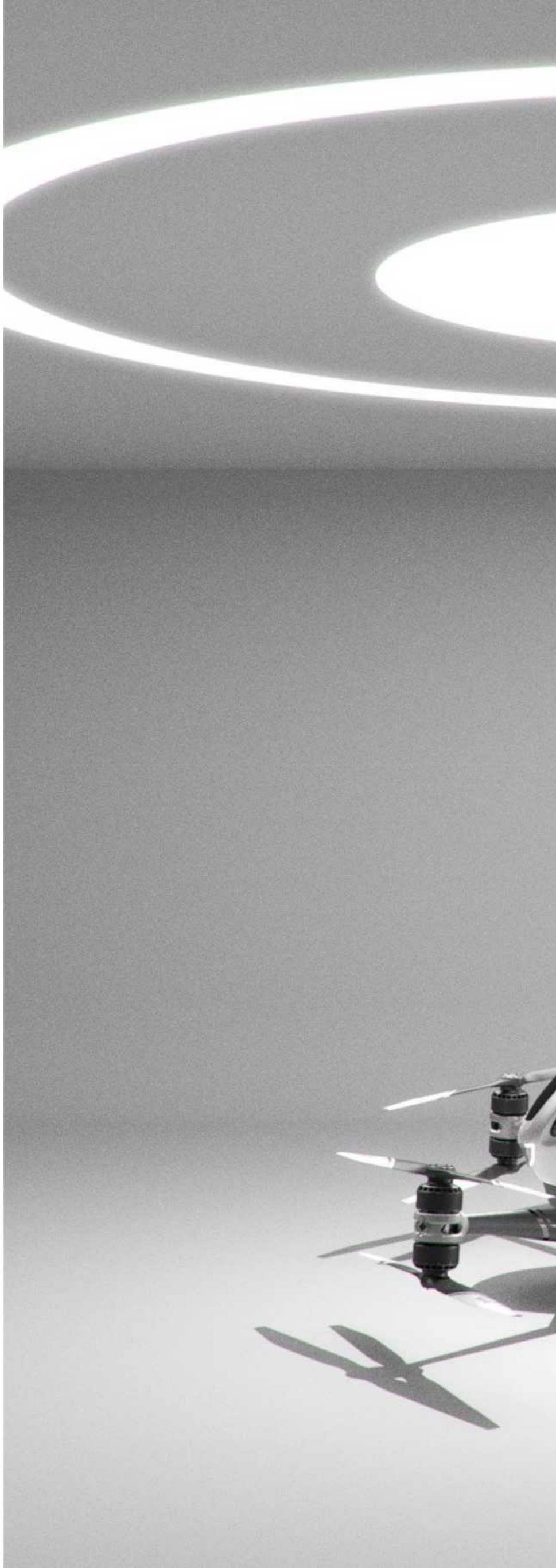
ORIGINS THAT GO BACK A LONG WAY

It's understandable that the idea of personal transportation above cities may still seem outlandish to many of us, who have become accustomed to the concept through masterpieces of cinema dating back to Fritz Lang's 1927 classic, Metropolis.

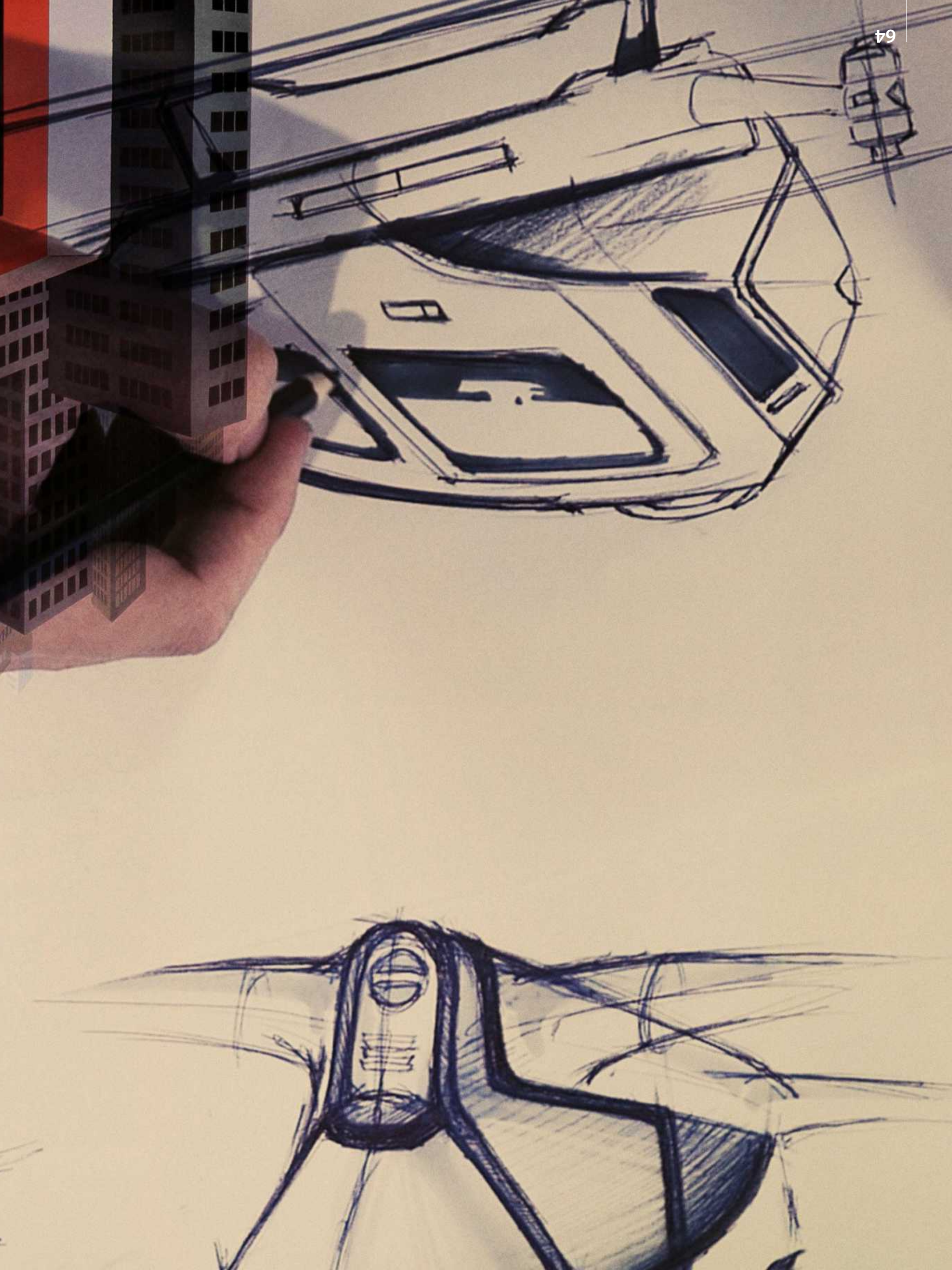
This first ever feature length science fiction film told its story of a worker class reigned over by a tyrannical overlord on the backdrop of the towering art deco city of Metropolis itself. **Its space lanes populated by flying cars journeying in neat rows** inevitably put many modern observers in mind of the city-covered planet of the Star Wars universe, Coruscant, mirroring the **similar imagery used in Ridley Scott's Blade Runner in 1982**.

The human-sized drone's switch from science fiction to science reality, however, has come rather sooner than many of us would have imagined. Mere days ago in an interview with Yahoo News, vice president for global public policy at Amazon, Paul Misener, **revealed further details about the firm's drone-based delivery program - now called Prime Air** - stating that the company aimed to deliver packages to customers within 30 minutes of their order being placed.

Misener added: "The goals we've set for ourselves are: the range has to be over 10 miles. These things will weigh about 55 pounds each, but they'll be able to deliver parcels that weigh








RIO

up to five pounds. It turns out that the vast majority of the things we sell at Amazon weigh less than five pounds."

THE VISION GRADUALLY MORPHING INTO REALITY

Of course, any excited talk about human-transporting drones must always be tempered with an acknowledgement of the very real practical issues that remain. Ehang has stated that with the 184 representing "an entirely new category of technology, there are regulations and agencies that are still catching up", adding that it is "working closely with government agencies across the planet to develop and regulate the future of transportation."

Suggesting that the Federal Aviation Administration and its sister regulators across the globe could accommodate drones with the creation of a layered airspace, Misener added: "Challenges are there, for sure, but once we demonstrate that this is safe, we'll be able to take it to the regulators and hopefully deploy it for our customers quickly."

The ambitions of these two companies rising in unison may tempt questions of whether Amazon could soon be transporting human-sized packages - but all of the evidence points to there being so much more potential for the drone than this. Think about it: drones barely existed five years ago. Is it so radical to imagine that in another five years, we will be living in a world of routine, Uber-facilitated point-to-point drone transportation of humans and cargo alike?

Even right now, in the days and weeks following the unveiling of the Ehang 184, we can cite all




11/27/2015 10:30 PM
100%
Dump Power
1.05 KM
Residual Distance
0 Meter
Height
0 Km/H
Speed
Enter the place you want to go
Setting Successful
Hilton Grand Vacations Suites Las Vegas...
Vegas Valley Dr
Oakmont Ave
Geary Pl
Joe W Brown Dr
Bel Air Dr
S Maryland Pkwy
Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center
The Las Vegas Country Club
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E Desert Inn Rd
Satellite Map
Sierra Vista Dr
200m
Las Vegas City
Clark County
Land
Return
Loiter
Hot
Off
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0
Max
30°C
warm
Las Vegas



manner of examples of functioning drones, from giant machines right through to micro ones weighing barely 20 grams. As **the former vice president of Microsoft China and recently appointed Chief Operations Officer (COO) at Ehang, George Yan**, would surely agree with, the next logical step is human transportation:

"We are pushing the envelope in how we will commute and travel in the future, and this will only succeed if others in the technology, aerospace and service industries, as well as policy makers, come together to accelerate this technology for the world.

"Back in the late 80s, a small software company had a dream to put a PC on every desktop. Ehang has a dream of putting a passenger drone on every rooftop."

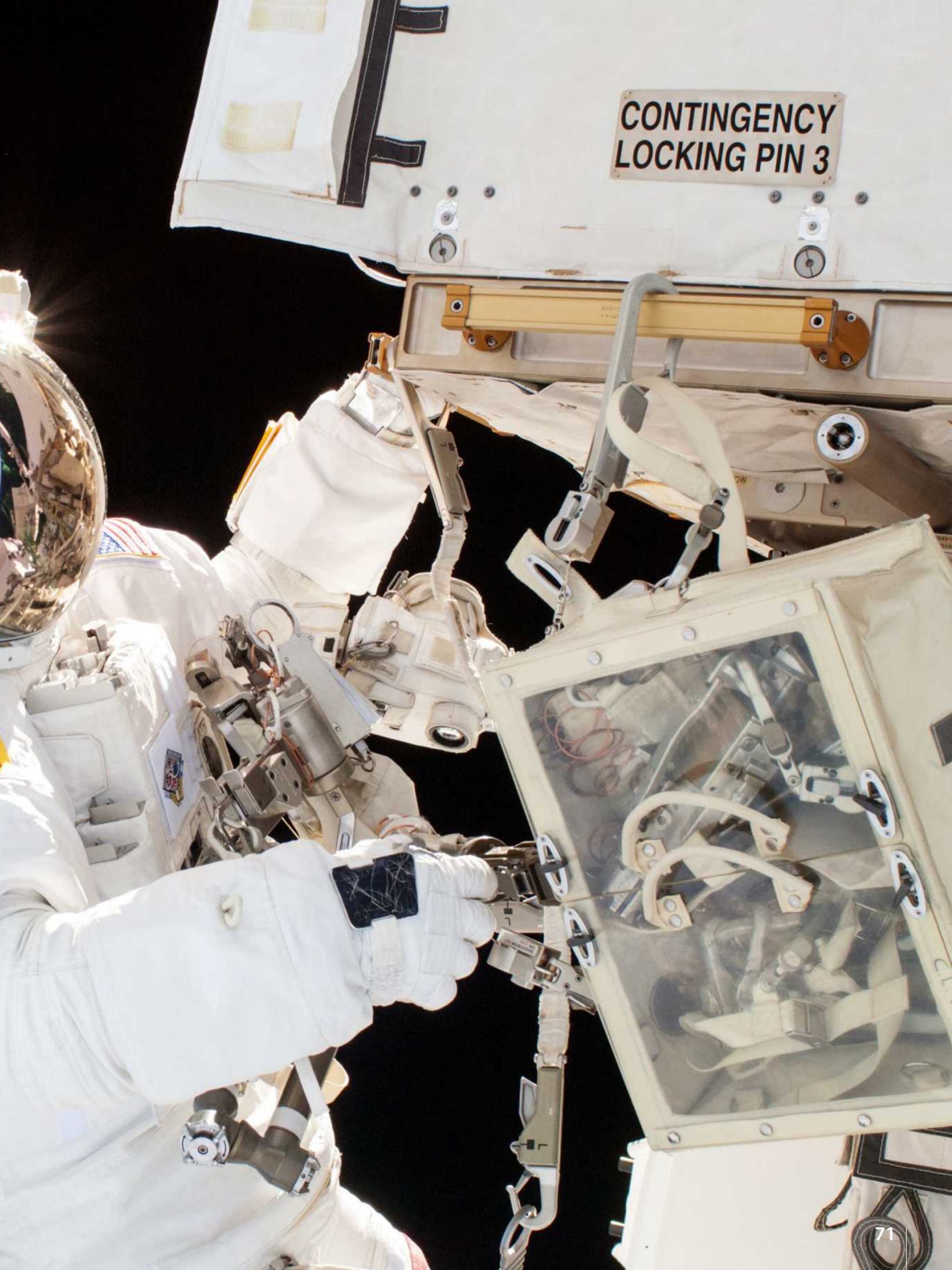
by Benjamin Kerry & Gavin Lenaghan

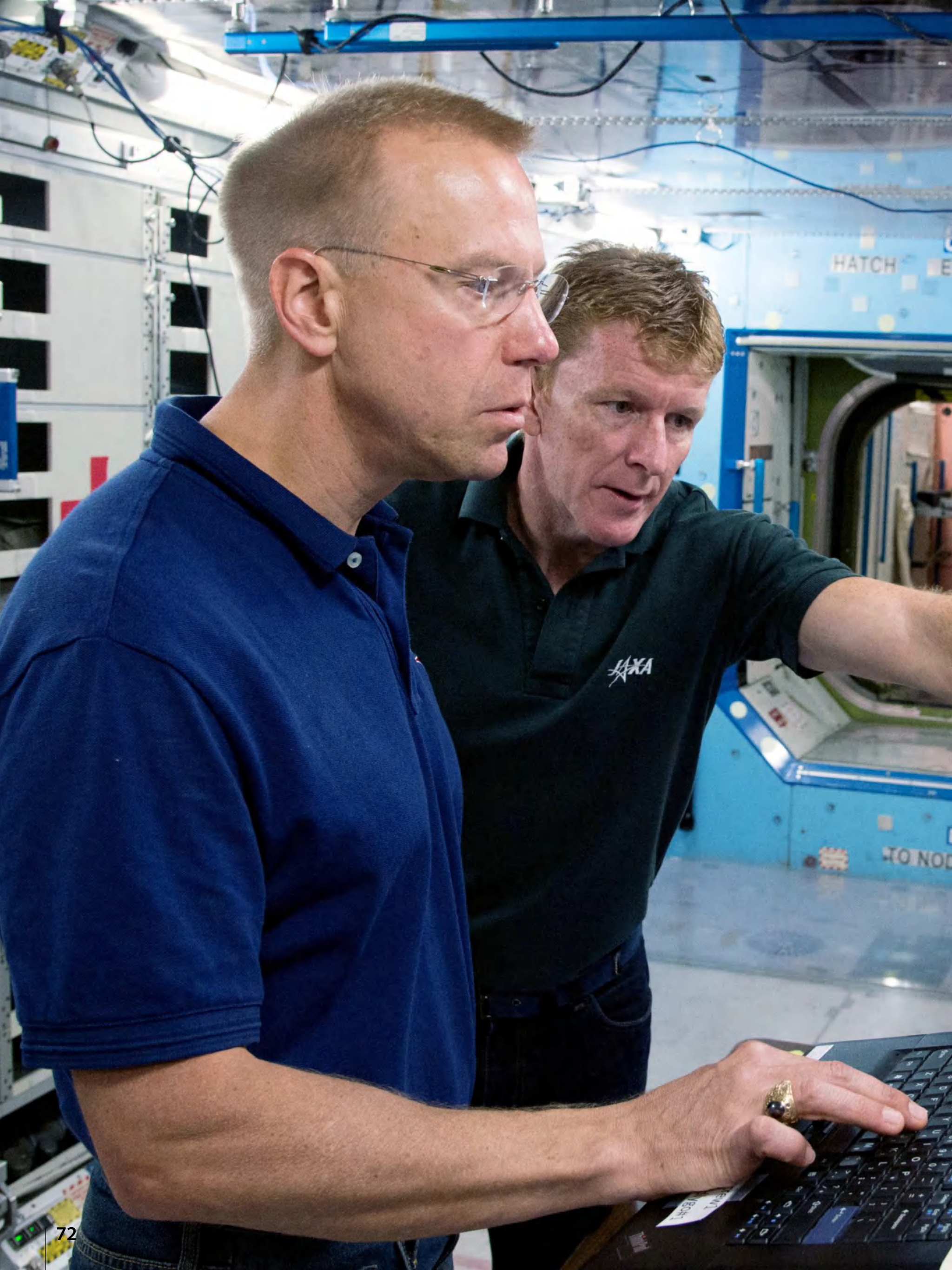



BCU
CHANG

SPACEWALK ABORTED AFTER WATER LEAKS INTO ASTRONAUT'S HELMET




CONTINGENCY
LOCKING PIN 3


HATCH
JAXA



Two astronauts aborted their spacewalk Friday and hurried back into the International Space Station after water leaked into one of the men's helmets in a scary repeat of a near-drowning 2½ years ago.

The trouble cropped up after the astronauts - including Britain's 1st spacewalker - successfully restored full power to the space station.

NASA astronaut Timothy Kopra took everyone by surprise when he reported a small water bubble and then a film of water inside his helmet. Mindful of another spacewalker's close call in 2013, Mission Control terminated the planned six-hour spacewalk at the four-hour mark. It turns out Kopra was wearing the same spacesuit involved in the earlier incident.

"So far, I'm OK," Kopra assured everyone. Later, he said the water bubble was 4 inches long and getting thicker.

"I'm doing good," he repeated on his way back inside.

Lead flight director Royce Renfrew, who called an early end to the spacewalk, stressed that the situation was not an emergency and insisted neither spacewalker was in danger. Indeed, Kopra took time to thank everyone for their help as the air lock was pressurized.

An hour later, Kopra was safely inside his orbiting home, along with Timothy Peake, who attracted his own headlines by becoming Britain's first spacewalker Friday.

The astronauts waiting anxiously inside pulled off Kopra's helmet, then measured the water that had leaked, presumably from the suit's cooling system. That was the source of the leak

last time. Space station commander Scott Kelly reported that he filled a syringe with about 15 cubic centimeters of water.

That's nothing, NASA officials pointed out, compared with the 1 to 1½ liters of water that escaped into Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano's helmet and suit in July 2013.

Kopra's suit was the same one Parmitano was wearing when his helmet flooded. This suit was refurbished following the 2013 incident. NASA said Kopra used the same suit for a spacewalk last month without any problem, and it had been used previously as well.

Despite the considerably smaller leak, the cap that Kopra wore on his head, under his helmet, was moist, as were other parts of his suit. As for Peake's suit, a quick look showed it to be dry save for a bit of moisture around the wrists.

Kopra and Peake completed their No. 1 job early on in the spacewalk. The pair quickly removed the voltage regulator that failed two months ago, slashing station power by one-eighth. The breakdown did not disrupt work 250 miles up, but NASA wanted the power grid fixed as soon as possible in case something else failed.

Working in darkness to avoid electrical shock from the solar power system, the astronauts quickly removed the bad unit and popped in a spare, both about the size of a 30-gallon aquarium. They had just 31 minutes to complete the job, the amount of nighttime on that particular swing around the world.

Following tests, Mission Control said the spare - dubbed Dusty for its 17-year tenure in orbit - appeared to be working properly.



Engineers suspect the original electronic unit suffered an internal electrical short. In the meantime, the station relied on the seven other power channels.

The action unfolded on the far reaches of the space station. The work site is about 200 feet from the astronauts' exit, about as far as spacewalkers safely can go.

Peake, in particular, received a bounty of well wishes - from space as well as Earth. He became the first spacewalker to wear the Union Jack on the shoulder of his suit.

"We're all watching, no pressure!" Former Beatle Paul McCartney said via Twitter. "Wishing you a happy stroll outdoors in the universe."

Earlier, as Peake floated out, space station commander Scott Kelly called, "Hey Tim, it's really cool seeing that Union Jack go outside. It's explored all over the world. Now it's explored space."

Replied Peake: "It's great to be wearing it, a huge privilege, a proud moment."

Peake, a helicopter pilot chosen by the European Space Agency, is Britain's first official astronaut.

A handful of previous spacewalkers held dual U.S.-English citizenship, but flew as Americans for NASA. The first British citizen to fly in space, chemist Helen Sharman, visited Russia's old Mir space station as part of a private competition in 1991.

Peake and Kopra, a former Army aviator and attack helicopter platoon leader, rocketed into orbit exactly one month ago aboard a Russian spacecraft.



After Parmitano's leak, NASA added absorbent pads to the helmet and put in place other precautions for future spacewalks. Those pads and safety procedures came in handy Friday.

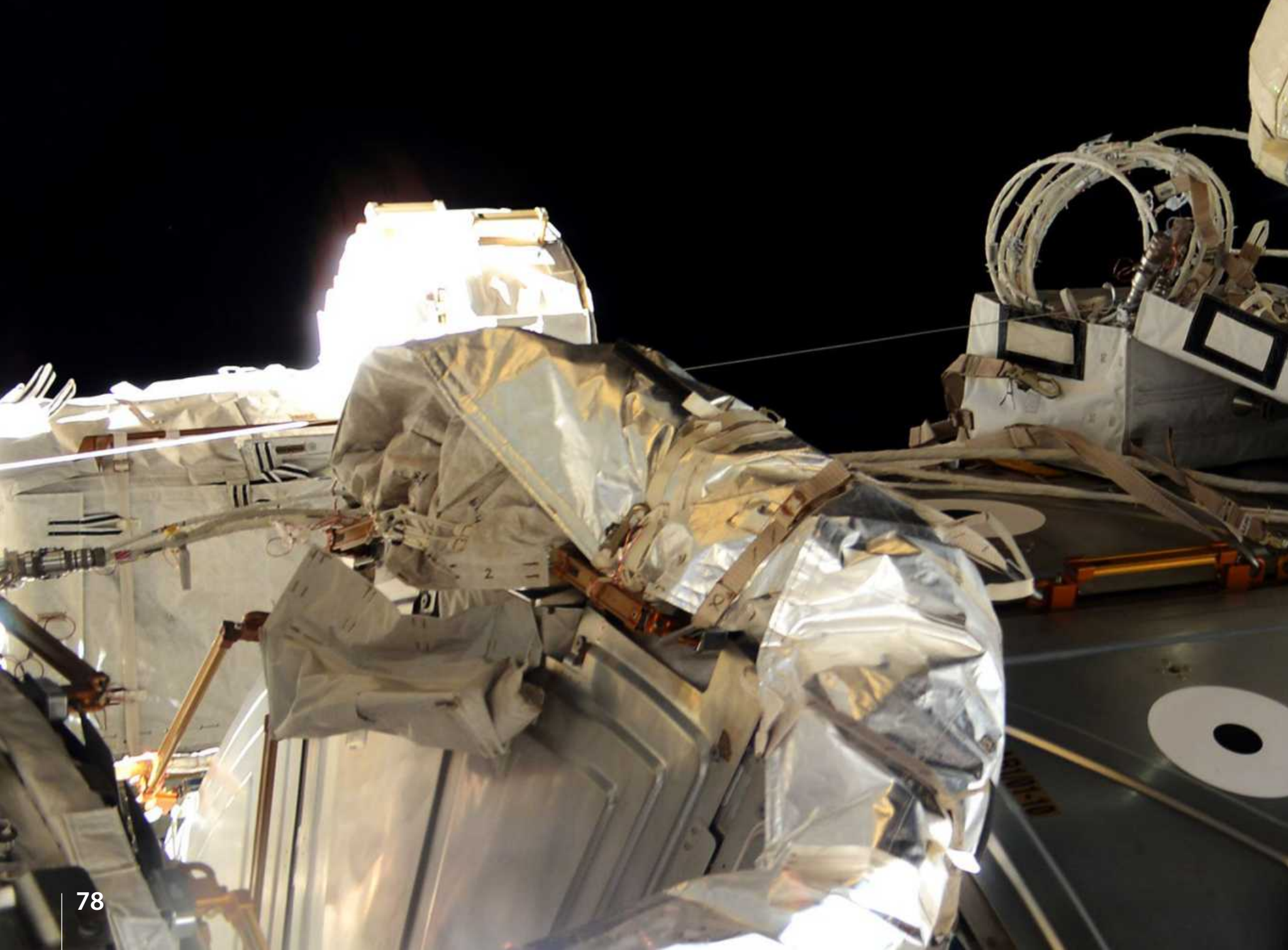
Parmitano's spacewalking partner that day, NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, was in Mission Control in Houston on Friday and offered assistance. Now chief of NASA's astronaut corps, Cassidy said at least everyone now has "a good grasp" of what to heed and what to do.

Engineers will scour the data in the weeks ahead to figure out what happened. Unlike last time, NASA did not immediately call for a halt to non-emergency spacewalks.

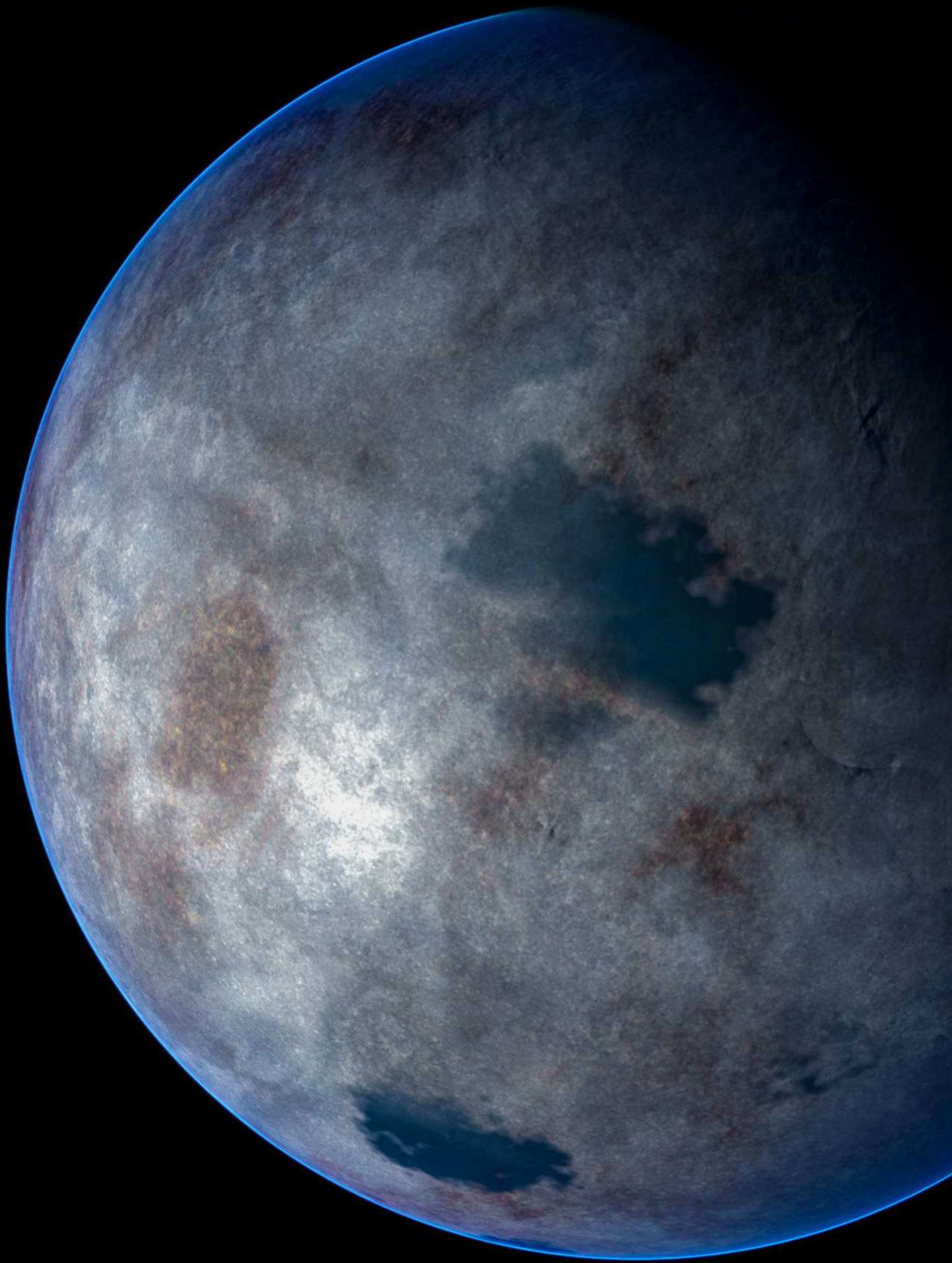
Parmitano was at the European Astronaut Center in Cologne, Germany, during Friday's spacewalk, answering questions about spacewalking. He had to cut the session short - "for good reasons."

"Happy to see @astro-timpeake and @astro-tim safe inside," Parmitano said via Twitter. "This is how I measure success: 1)crew-safe 2)main objective-completed."

Online:
European Space Agency: **http://m.esa.int/ESA**







GOOD EVIDENCE FOR 9TH PLANET IN SOLAR SYSTEM

Scientists reported Wednesday they finally have "good evidence" for Planet X, a true ninth planet on the fringes of our solar system.

The gas giant is thought to be almost as big as Neptune and orbiting billions of miles beyond Neptune's path - distant enough to take 10,000 to 20,000 years to circle the sun.

This Planet 9, as the two California Institute of Technology researchers call it, hasn't been spotted yet. They base their findings on mathematical and computer modeling, and anticipate its discovery via telescope within five years or less.

The two reported on their research Wednesday in the Astronomical Journal because they want people to help them look for it.

"We could have stayed quiet and quietly spent the next five years searching the skies ourselves and hoping to find it. But I would rather somebody find it sooner, than me find it later," astronomer Mike Brown told The Associated Press.

"I want to see it. I want to see what it looks like. I want to understand where it is, and I think this will help."

Once it's detected, Brown insists there will be no Pluto-style planetary debate. Brown ought to know; he's the so-called Pluto killer who helped lead the charge against Pluto's planetary status in 2006. (It's now officially considered a dwarf planet.)

His colleague in this latest Planet 9 report, also from Caltech in Pasadena, is planetary scientist Konstantin Batygin.

"For the first time in more than 150 years, there's good evidence that the planetary census of the solar system is incomplete," Batygin said, referring to Neptune's discovery as Planet 8.

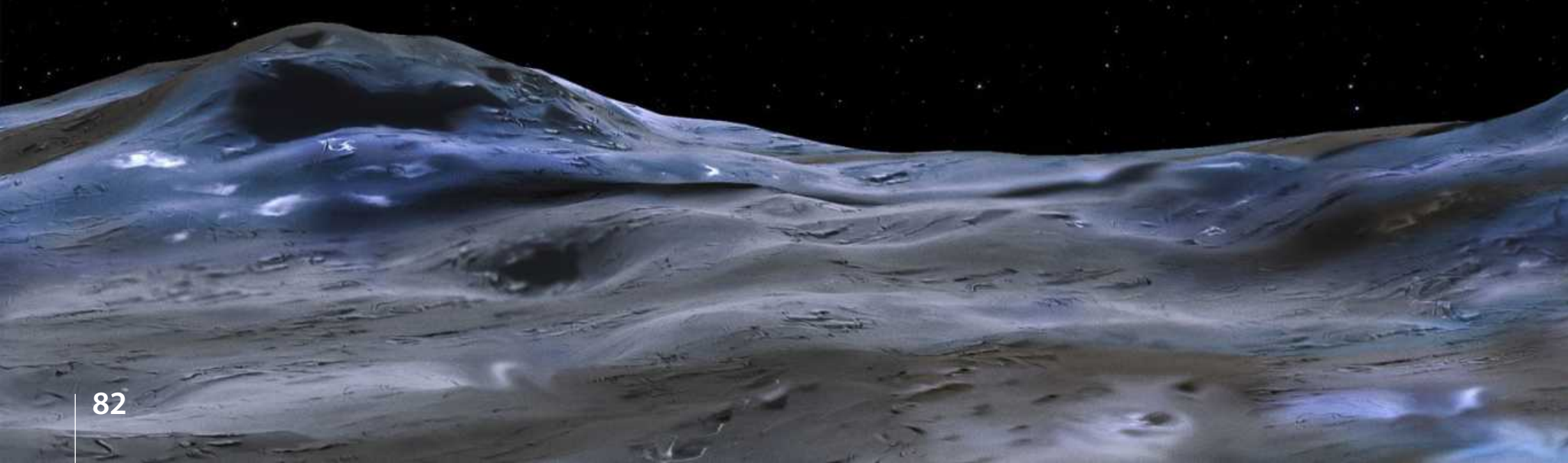
The two based their findings on the fact that six objects in the icy Kuiper Belt, or Twilight Zone on the far reaches of the solar system, appear to be influenced by only one thing: a real planet.

Brown actually discovered one of these six objects more than a decade ago, Sedna, a large minor planet way out there on the solar system frontier.

"This is a prediction. What we have found is a gravitational signature of Planet 9 lurking in the outskirts of the solar system,' Batygin said. "We have not found the object itself," he stressed, adding that the actual discovery when it happens will be "era-defining."

Added Brown: "We have felt a great disturbance in the force."

Depending on where this Planet 9 is in its egg-shaped orbit, a space telescope may be needed to confirm its presence, the researchers said. Or good backyard telescopes may spot it, they noted, if the planet is relatively closer to us in its swing around the sun. It's an estimated 20 billion to 100 billion miles from us.



A Ninth Planet Once Again?

The Caltech researchers prefer calling it Planet 9, versus the historical term Planet X. The latter smacks of "aliens and the imminent destruction of the Earth," according to Brown.

The orb - believed to be 10 times more massive than Earth and 5,000 times more massive than dwarf Pluto - may well have rings and moons.

The last real planet to be discovered in our solar system was Neptune in 1846. Pluto, discovered in 1930, was once the 9th planet but is now considered a dwarf planet in the Kuiper Belt. It was visited by Earth for the first time last July; NASA's New Horizons spacecraft accomplished the first-ever flyby.

The spacecraft, unfortunately, is in the opposite direction of Planet 9, according to the researchers, and thus unable to help in its detection.

Alan Stern, principal scientist for New Horizons, is withholding judgment on Brown and Batygin's prediction.

"This kind of thing comes around every few years. To date, none of those predicts have been borne out by discoveries," Stern said in an email Wednesday. "I'd be very happy if the Brown-Batygin were the exception to the rule, but we'll have to wait and see. Prediction is not discovery."

Brown realizes skepticism will exist until the planet is actually observed.

"It's such a long history of people being basically wrong that standing up and saying we're right this time makes us almost look crazy," Brown said. "Except I'm going to stand up and say we're actually right this time. The evidence for the first time is actually very good that this thing is actually out there."

Online: Caltech: **http://www.caltech.edu/**



TA-NEHISI COATES AMONG FINALISTS FOR BOOK CRITICS AWARDS

Ta-Nehisi Coates' "Between the World and Me" and Lauren Groff's "Fates and Furies" are finalists for the National Book Critics Circle prize.

New Yorker literary critic James Wood, memoirist Helen McDonald and poet Terrance Hayes also were among the 30 nominees announced Monday. The NBCC selected five finalists in each of six competitive categories, ranging from fiction to autobiography.

The poet, fiction writer and environmentalist Wendell Berry is to receive a lifetime achievement honor. Kirstin Valdez Quade's short story collection "Night at the Fiestas" won the John Leonard Prize for best first book in any genre, and Carlos Lozada, associate editor and nonfiction book critic at The Washington Post, will receive a citation for excellence in reviewing.

Winners for competitive awards will be announced March 17.

Coates' anguished open letter to his teenage son about race and police violence has been on best-seller lists for months and won the National Book Award last fall for nonfiction. Groff's novel about the differing perspectives of a marriage was a National Book Award finalist for fiction and has at least one famous admirer; President Barack Obama called it his favorite book of 2015.

Other fiction nominees included Paul Beatty's "The Sellout," Valeria Luiselli's "The Story of My Teeth," Anthony Marra's "The Tsar of Love and Techno," and Ottessa Moshfegh's "Eileen."

Coates' book and Woods' "The Nearest Thing to Life" were criticism finalists, along with Leo Damrosch's "Eternity's Sunrise: The Imaginative World of William Blake," Maggie Nelson's "The Argonauts" and Colm Toibin's, "On Elizabeth Bishop." Toibin's 2009 novel "Brooklyn" is the basis for the Oscar-nominated movie of the same name.

McDonald's best-selling "H is for Hawk" was a nominee for autobiography, along with Elizabeth Alexander's "The Light of the World," Vivian Gornick's "The Odd Woman and the City," George Hodgman's "Bettyville," and Margo Jefferson's "Negroland."

NBCC president Tom Beer said "Between the World and Me" also was considered for autobiography, but that judges decided it worked best for criticism.

"Criticism can include traditional arts criticism about books or film or music or fine arts, but also expands to include social critique and cultural critique in the broadest sense," he said. "People felt Coates' book was more than just a memoir or personal account of his life, but a critique of the social contract for black men in America."

In general nonfiction, finalists were Mary Beard's best-selling "SPQR: A History of Rome," Ari Berman's "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America," Jill Leovy's "Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America," Sam Quinones's "Dreamland: The True Story of America's Opiate Epidemic," and Brian Seibert's "What the Eye Hears: A History of Tap Dancing."

The critics circle was founded in 1974 and has around 700 members nationwide.

iTunes

Review



Trailer

Movies & TV Shows

Rotten **Tomatoes**

CERTIFIED FRESH

14%



iTunes Preview

by Ciarán Foy
Genre: Horror
Released: 2015
Price: $14.99

★★★★★
51 Ratings

Sinister 2

The sequel to one of the most jump-inducing movies of all time sees yet another family tormented by the vicious demon Bughuul.

FIVE FACTS:

1. The movie is an homage to Children of the Corn, a novel by the infamous horror writer Stephen King.

2. 'Bughuul' translates to Boogeyman.

3. A third Sinister movie is said to be in the works.

4. Deputy So & So and Bughuul are the only characters to return from the first movie.

5. James Ransone, who plays lead character Deputy So & So, has also starred in Oldboy, Law and Order, and the first movie in the Sinister franchise.

See more in iTunes



Cast Interview



Hitman: Agent 47

A reboot of the original Hitman movie; a genetically-engineered assassin only known by two digits of the barcode tattooed on the back of his neck must defeat the head of a corporation intent on using Agent 47's powers to create an army of killers.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Both of the Hitman movies are based on the video game series of the same name.

2. Paul Walker was previously attached to play the lead role in this film before his sudden death in late November, 2013.

3. During a series of quick cuts, a man can be seen holding a Sony PlayStation video game controller. Most of the early Hitman games were available on the PlayStation 2 system.

4. The first ever Hollywood movie to be filmed in Singapore.

5. Rupert Friend, who plays 47, has also starred in Pride & Predjudice, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, and The Young Victoria.



iTunes **Preview**

by Aleksander Bach
Genre: Action & Adventure
Released: 2015
Price: $14.99

★★★★★
1 29 Ratings

Rotten **Tomatoes**
CERTIFIED FRESH
09%



Trailer



Cast Interview



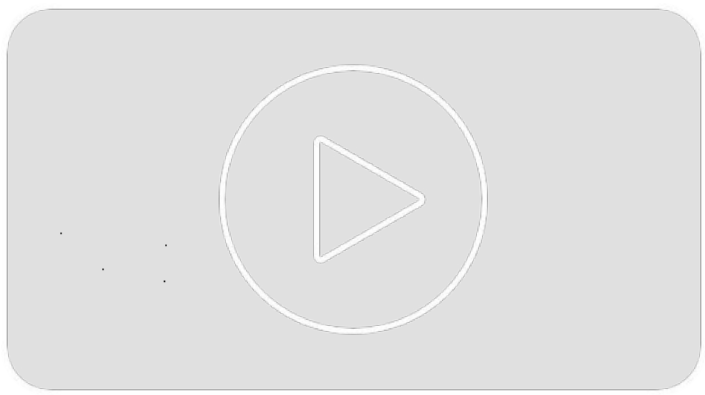
iTunes

Review



Music





See more in
iTunes

The albums titular track& music video



Curve of the Earth

Mystery Jets

Curve of the Earth is the fifth studio album from London-based Mystery Jets. This album sees the band retreat back into their slightly-prog-rock roots, but is still just as charming as the rest of their uplifting indie back catalogue.

FIVE FACTS:

1. Curve of the Earth was recorded over a three-year period in a homemade studio, built inside of a disused button factory.

2. The band only ever plays in venues that make a conscious effort to cater for people with disabilities. Vocalist and guitarist Blaine Harrison suffers from spin bifida himself, and is a patron for Attitude is Everything- a charity which works with live music venues in the UK to make gigs accessible for people with disabilities.

3. This album is released on Caroline Records, who have also worked with notable artists such as Brian Eno, Smashing Pumpkins, and 50 Cent.

4. Rather unusually, Blaine Harrison's father Henry is also a member of the band, playing keyboards and guitar.

5. The band contributed a song to the Songs for Survival album; an album intended to raise funds for Survival International, the human rights organisation for tribal peoples. Other contributors include will.i.am, Jason Mraz, and Mike Oldfield.



iTunes Preview

Genre: Alternative
Released: Jan 15, 2016
9 Songs
Price: $8.99

★★★★★
11 Ratings

Latest single 'Telomere'


MYSTER
curve of



A recent interview with the band

UNEASY TIMES: WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR AT DAVOS THIS YEAR

Extremist attacks, plunging markets, and the break-neck pace of technological innovation. The world is beset by uncertainties as 2,500 business executives, political leaders and activists gather in the Swiss Alpine town of Davos this week.

Although the glitzy event, which features speeches, panels and debates, has drawn criticism for being disconnected from the real world, many participants stress the practical advantage of having so many peers in one place.

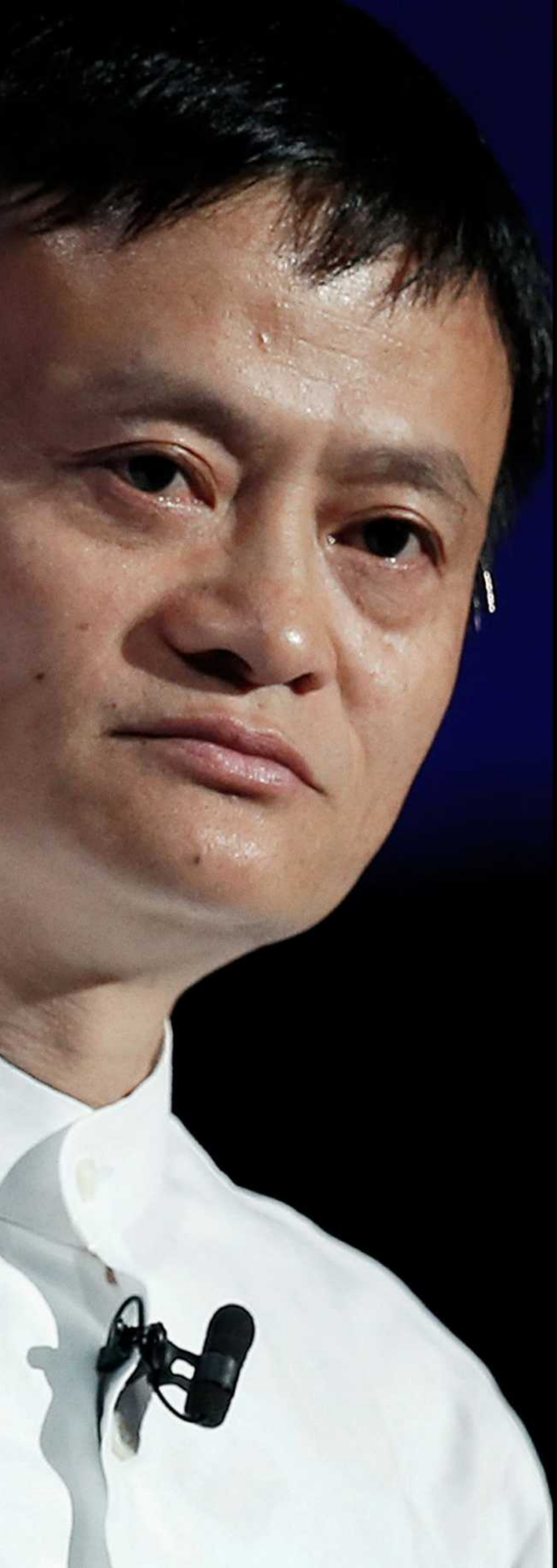
The meetings can lead to corporate deals and diplomatic dialogue. Last year, Ukraine struck an international bailout deal in Davos.

“A lot of relationships are built and renewed,” said John Veihmeyer, chairman of the consulting firm KPMG.

Image: Ted Aljibe



Image: Kiyoshi Ota



The annual gathering organized by the World Economic Forum is mainly a business event but it has grown over the years to attract world leaders, celebrities, Nobel prize winners and star academics.

This year's meeting is officially about how to harness technological change. In practice, it will be abuzz with discussion about the multitude of risks facing government and business leaders.

Here's a look at what's likely to dominate the meetings.

CHINA

The future of China has become synonymous with the fate of the global economy and financial markets. Concerns about Beijing's ability to handle a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy have caused stocks to plunge this year. The big risk is that China's decline might become disorderly and hammer business activity or trigger a financial crisis. The country is a huge consumer of raw materials and energy from states like Brazil, Australia, and Russia. Its outsize industrial sector buys machinery from the West and makes and exports consumer goods at a low cost. And the growing middle class has become a key market for car makers and luxury goods companies.

Key people to watch: Jack Ma, the head of Chinese retail giant Alibaba, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde, and Fang Xinghai, representative of China's financial market regulator.

SECURITY

The threat of extremist attacks of the kind that have hit Paris, Jakarta and Istanbul will be among the top issues, particularly for the political leaders, who will have the opportunity to hold multiple closed-door meetings with their counterparts. The international campaign to fight the Islamic State group has seen several Western countries and Russia bomb Syria and Iraq. The conflict has triggered a mass migration of people into Europe and inflamed tensions between Middle Eastern powers Saudi Arabia and Iran. This month's nuclear test by North Korea will also be a topic of discussion - particularly after the World Economic Forum canceled its invitation to the country's delegation over the incident.

Key people: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.



Image: Pablo Martinez Monsivais

OIL

The dramatic slide in energy prices is shaking up companies and economies. While making fuel cheaper for consumers and businesses, the drop in oil prices is also leading to thousands of job cuts in the energy sector and financial instability and poverty in oil-exporting countries like Russia and Venezuela. And world powers' agreement this weekend to lift sanctions on Iran will see the country start pumping millions of barrels of oil into the already oversupplied market, as well as a rush to sign business deals with the country.

Key people: Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, Saudi Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Aziz Al Assaf, Shell CEO Ben van Beurden, Iraq Prime Minister Haidar Al Abadi.


CYBERDYNE
CYBERDYNE



TECHNOLOGY

This year's meeting is officially focused on how "the fourth industrial revolution" will change every aspect of society, from health to business and travel. Among the most immediate concerns is how to protect companies and governments from cyberattacks as business increasingly goes digital. But participants will also be keen to discuss opportunities created by growing trends such as 3D printing, driverless cars, robotics and new biotechnologies.

Key people: Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of Google parent company Alphabet, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, and Airbnb co-founder Nathan Blecharczyk.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nearly 200 countries reached a landmark deal last month in Paris to limit the rise in world temperatures this century. Achieving that promise won't be easy. Shifting to renewable energy and cleaning up greenhouse gases will require technological innovations as well as huge investment - about $13.5 trillion by 2030, according to the International Energy Agency. To do so, governments will have to attract the private sector's interest. Meanwhile, developing countries trying to bring their populations out of poverty will have to balance the need for cheap - and more polluting - energy like coal against the new targets.

Key people: UN climate chief Christina Figueres and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, credited with brokering the Paris deal.



NETFLIX CHIEF SAYS 2016 WILL BRING EMPHASIS ON FAMILY SHOWS





Image: Eric Charbonneau



Image: Michael Yarish/Netflix



Netflix says it will make a special effort to produce programming for children and families, with the streaming service offering 20 new programs in the category this year led by the Feb. 26 premiere of the "Fuller House" remake.

Ted Sarandos, Netflix chief content officer, said Sunday that there's not enough of this programming on traditional TV right now. The emphasis also coincides with Netflix's broadening subscriber base - it's more than 19-year-old boys clicking onto the service now.

The streaming service is in only its fourth season of making original content with deep pockets that have made traditional TV networks envious. Sarandos, who said Netflix will spend $5 billion on content this year, aggressively fought back against recent criticism from rivals.

The remake of the popular "Full House" is highly anticipated. The network on Friday also made available new episodes of the teen-focused series "Degrassi." Jim Henson's company is making "Word Party," a show for preschoolers, and "Lost & Found Music Studios," premiering in April, is about striving teenage musicians. Also in April, the animated "Kong: King of the Apes" will update the King Kong series.

"The Get Down," a series starting this summer about the formative days of rap music, could appeal to both youngsters and their parents.

Netflix said it has 43 million subscribers in the United States, or more than a third of households with television, and 70 million worldwide. It has steadfastly refused to detail how many people watch their original programs, leading a rival to try and pull back the curtain this week.

NBC researchers said they used audio measurements from Symphony Advanced Media to estimate viewership for some Netflix programs. For instance, NBC said the comedy "Master of None" was seen 3.9 million times by viewers ages 18-to-49 over a 35-day period, while "Marvel's Jessica Jones" had 4.8 million youthful viewers during the same stretch of time. NBC argued this meant Netflix wasn't a serious threat to its business.

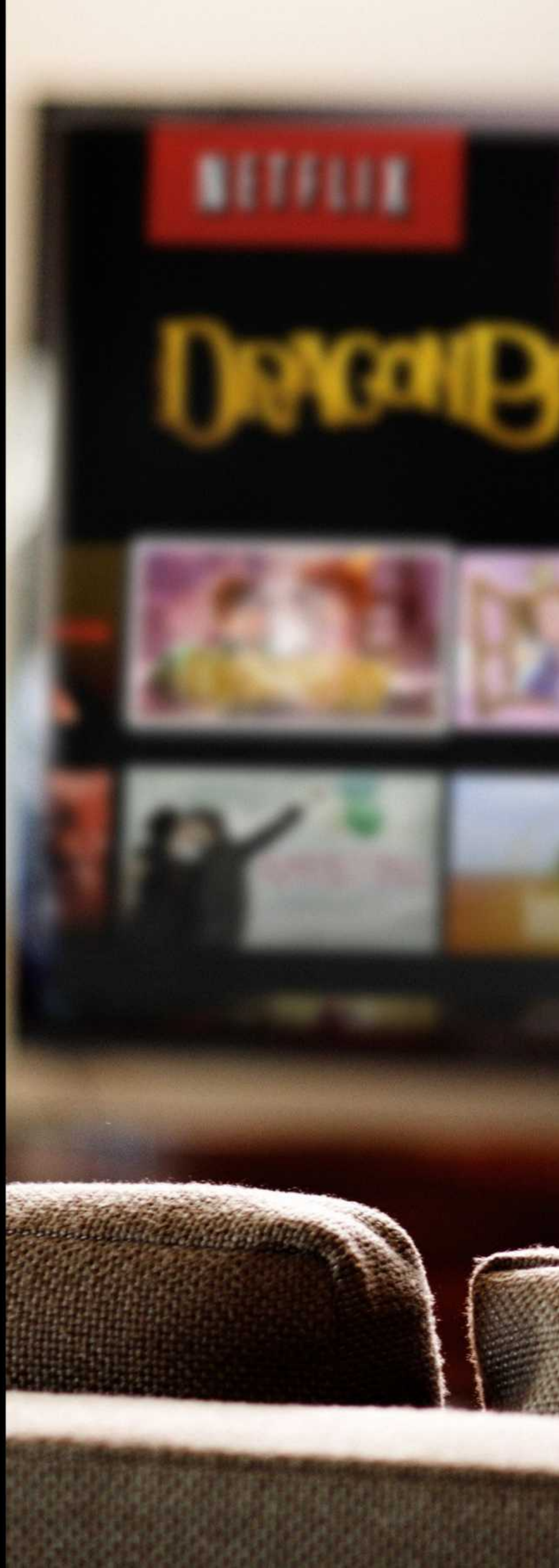
Sarandos said NBC released "remarkably inaccurate data that does not reflect any reality that we track," and said Netflix doesn't measure viewership in the 18-to-49-year-old demographic. He said NBC probably took the time to talk about Netflix "because it's more fun than talking about NBC's ratings."

He did not, however, release any specific data to dispute what NBC said.

One thing not in Netflix's immediate future: live programming, including news or sports. While Netflix has the technical ability to deliver live programming, it would muddle the company's chief marketing message that viewers can watch whatever they want whenever they want.

Sarandos also needled John Landgraf, CEO of the FX Networks, who complained Saturday of Netflix's big programming budget and has suggested that there are too many television shows being made for consumers to get a grip on.

"Is there too much TV?" Sarandos asked. "We don't think there's too much TV, and if there is too much TV, somebody else has to slow down."



BUILD A BETTER WEATHER NETWORK? NEW YORK TAKES THE DARE



Counting every raindrop or measuring every gust of wind is impossible, but New York is getting closer with a uniquely extensive statewide system of automated weather stations that should paint a dramatically clearer picture of developing storms.

Described as the new "gold standard" of automated systems, the long-planned network of 125 weather stations stretching from the shores of Lake Erie to the tip of Long Island is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Fourteen stations are already transmitting temperature, pressure and other data every five minutes. When all the stations are operating, forecasters, emergency officials and ordinary weather wonks will be able to get a fine-grained look - a million data points a day - that will hopefully lead to better predictions.

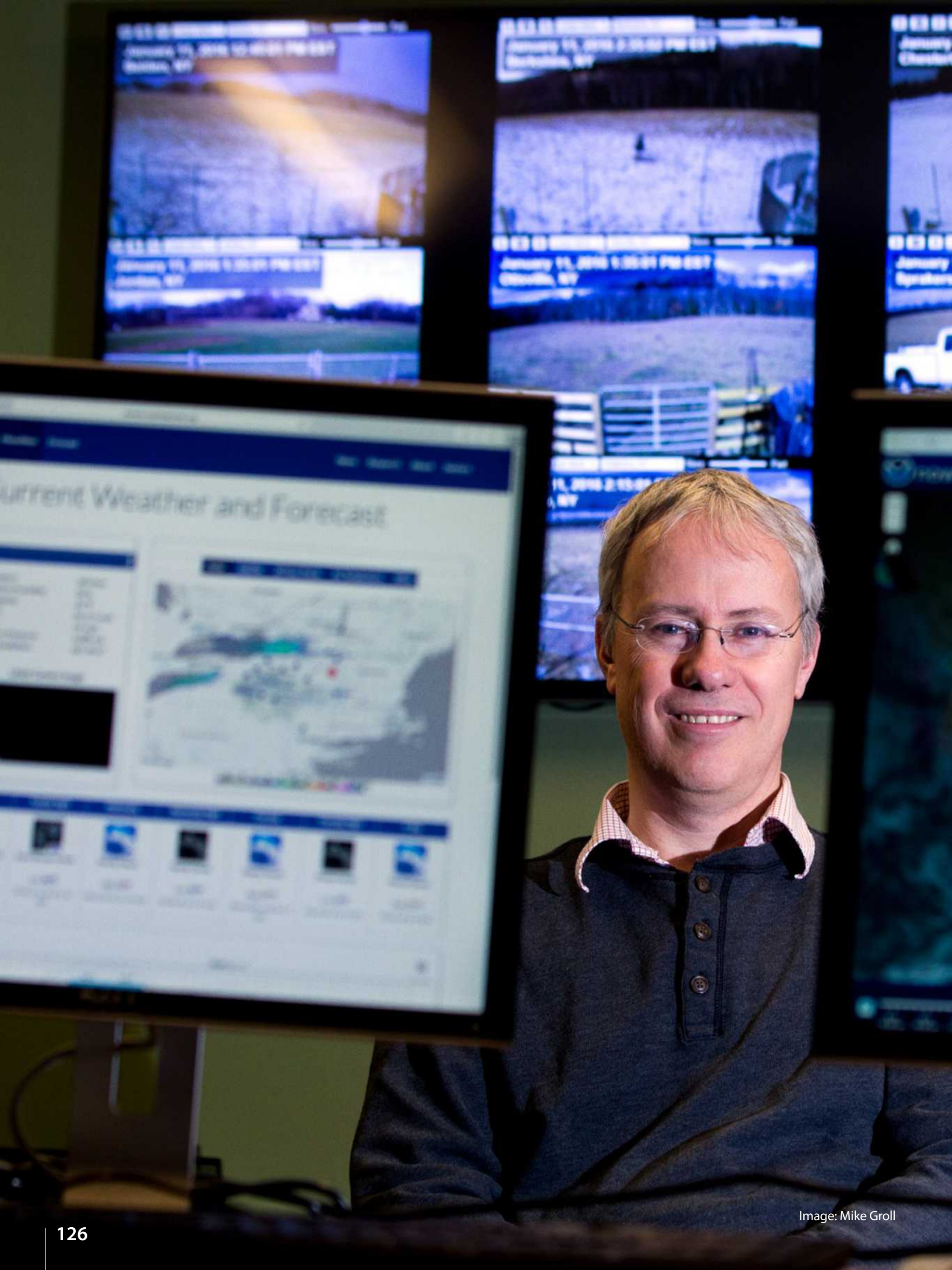
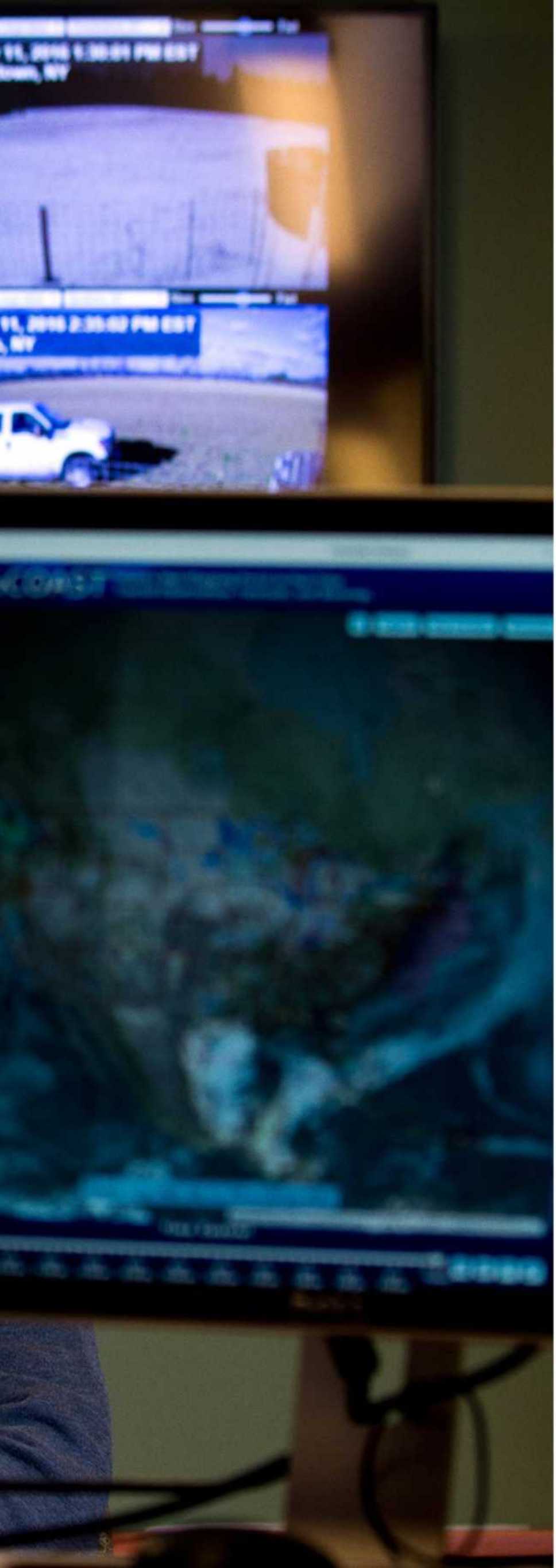


Image: Mike Groll



"That's the problem with the current network. There are serious gaps and so you can't see enough of the weather as it's evolving," said Chris Thorncroft, chairman of the University at Albany's atmospheric and environmental sciences department.

Thorncroft is helping lead the development of the New York State Mesonet, which is being funded with a $23.6 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The new system will augment the 27 stations now used by federal forecasters.

People in New York will never be more than 25 miles from a station. The new system will also take in types of data that the current stations do not, such as soil temperature and moisture, and solar radiation. Each site even transmits pictures every five minutes.

Select data from the working stations is already being posted to the Web.

Slightly more than half the states have some kind of network of stations augmenting those the federal government relies on. But the dense and sophisticated network being built in New York will surpass the sophistication of the current "gold standard" system in Oklahoma, according to Curtis Marshall, the National Mesonet program manager.

Oklahoma Mesonet manager Chris Fiebrich said that state's 120-station network, which dates to the early '90s, provided crucial information for public safety officials and meteorologists last year, the wettest in Oklahoma's history.

"Every season, at least, the Mesonet proves its value in just recording incredibly extreme weather," Fiebrich said.

Discussions about a New York Mesonet began in earnest after the Catskills were deluged by the remnants of Hurricane Irene in 2011, Thorncroft said. Record-setting rain had fallen in areas without a gauge, leading to delayed information, he said. A year later, Superstorm Sandy sent a surge into the New York City area and killed 53 people in the state.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been promoting the weather detection system since 2014, though not always in a welcoming way. The governor mentioned the coming forecast improvements that November as the Buffalo area dug out from a jaw-dropping 7 feet of snow. His claim that the weather service was "off" in its own snow forecast turned out to be fighting words to meteorologists who had spent days warning about a major storm.

Actually, the National Weather Service will take the data into their own system and use it for their own forecasts. Raymond O'Keefe, meteorologist-in-charge at the service's Albany bureau, said forecasters have already used data from the existing stations to check on whether local ground was frozen before a recent soaking rain as a way to forecast runoff. The attraction to O'Keefe is simple: more data going into models, better data coming out.





Image: Brendan McDermid

"Better observations, better predictions, better forecasts, better warnings," he said.

Utilities and other businesses wanting the data sent to them will pay a fee.

New York's Mesonet is tem porarily housed in a sub-basement at the University at Albany until newer space is ready elsewhere around the campus. The automated stations will look pretty much the same, with 30-foot metal towers topped by wind sensors. Most are being built in open fields, though five New York City stations will be on rooftops. Some of the stations, mostly in the Adirondack Mountains and the adjacent Tug Hill Plateau, will measure snowfall.

Significantly, 17 stations will be able to measure conditions in the atmosphere miles above, a job done now on a much more limited basis now by weather balloons. Marshall, at the National Weather Service, said such "vertical profiling" is done in some other areas, but not in the systematic way New York is deploying them.

Thorncoft called the array of profilers a "game changer," since they will provide much more real-time information about three-dimensional aspects of the atmosphere.

"Knowing what's happening now will allow you to say something intelligent about the next few hours," he said.

HIGH COURT WILL HEAR **MICROSOFT** APPEAL OVER **XBOX** LAWSUIT

The Supreme Court will decide whether Microsoft Corp. must face a class action lawsuit by disgruntled owners of the Xbox 360 video-game system who say the console has a design defect that scratches game disks.

The justices agreed Friday to hear an appeal from Microsoft arguing that individual claims by the plaintiffs had previously been thrown out.

Microsoft has sold more than 80 million Xbox 360 consoles and says only 0.4 percent of owners report disk scratching. The company says any damage is the result of consumer misuse and not a product defect.

A federal judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2012, ruling there were not enough complaints to justify a class action. But a federal appeals court reversed, saying it could go forward.

WHATSAPP TO DROP RENEWAL FEES FOR THE MESSAGING SERVICE

WhatsApp, a popular mobile messaging service owned by Facebook, says it will drop its 99-cent subscription fee over the next several weeks.

The company said Monday that charging the fee after one free year hasn't worked well.

It says that many users don't have a credit or debit card and are afraid of losing the service when it's time to renew.

WhatsApp says nearly a billion people around the world use the service.

Company officials say they don't plan to introduce ads to offset the loss of fees. They say they will start testing tools this year to let customers communicate with banks and other businesses and organizations, but they aren't providing details.

Facebook Inc. paid $22 billion to buy the messaging service in 2014.

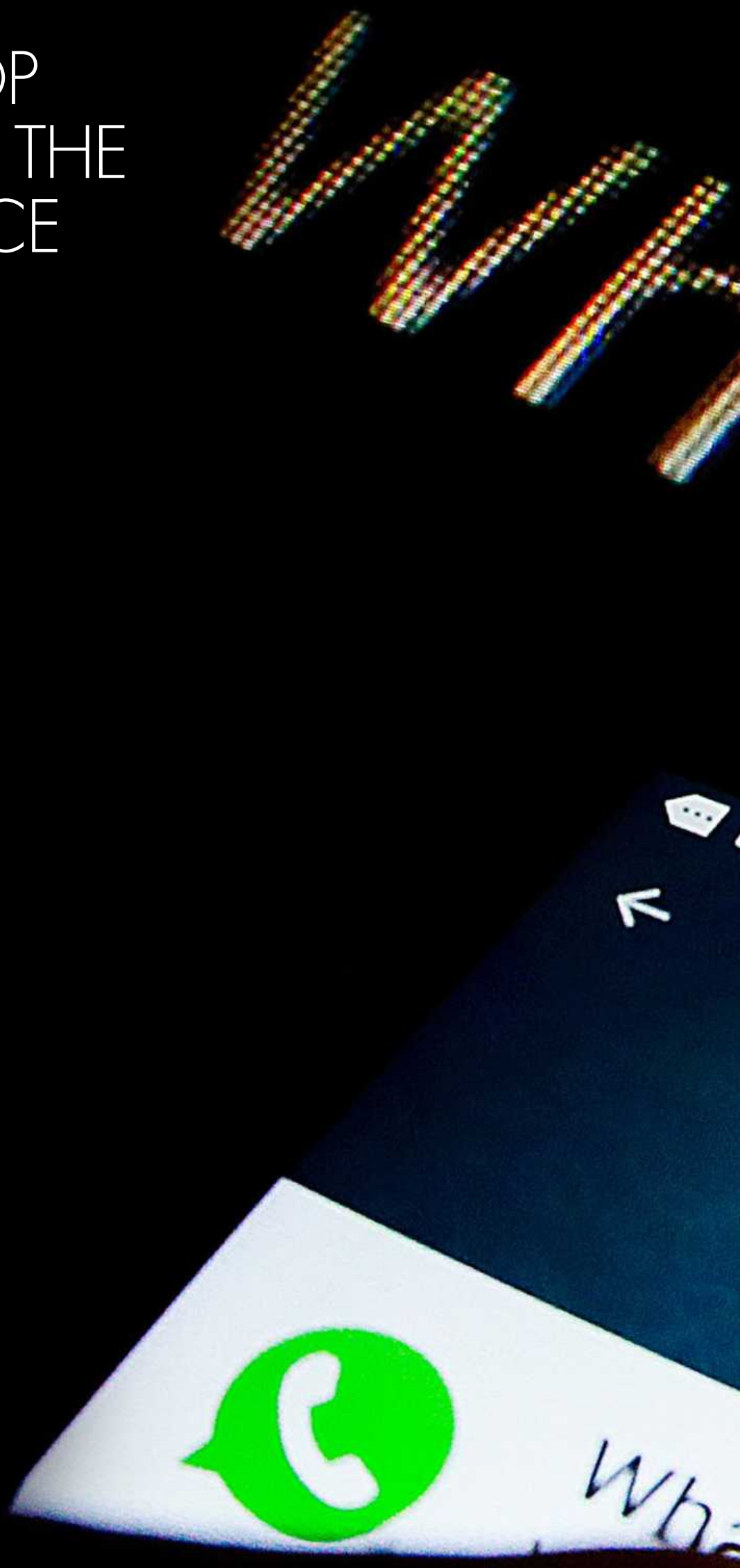


Image: Allan White


10:20 AM
WhatsApp

Image: Charles Krupa



TECH AT THE SYMPHONY: BOSTON ORCHESTRA LOANING PATRONS iPADS

The Boston Symphony Orchestra is loaning iPads to concertgoers during performances in hopes of drawing new audiences to classical music.

Select patrons at a handful of upcoming Friday concerts will be able to use the iPads to view sheet music, video interviews with musicians, podcasts about composers and analysis on the music pieces. They'll also get a close-up view of the conductor from the musicians' point of view through video monitors set up in the hall.

The storied orchestra says it's the first to offer patrons customized iPads.

For now, the iPads and video monitors are being offered to the 110-persons seated in the rear orchestra floor section.

Other orchestras are also trying to incorporate new technology. The Philadelphia Orchestra recently launched a mobile application that lets audience members view program notes in real time.



Image: Charles Krupa

ПЕТРУШКА.

Petruschka. Pétrouchka.

Violino II. 1

Картина Первая.

МАСЛЕНИЦА.

Erstes Bild. | Premier Tableau.

Karneval. Carnaval.

Игорь Стравинскій.
Igor Strawinsky.

Vivace.

1 CELLI 2 (détaché)

3 (détaché)

4

Poco a poco accelerando e crescendo.

5

6

Stringendo.

7

8

Come prima. (détaché)

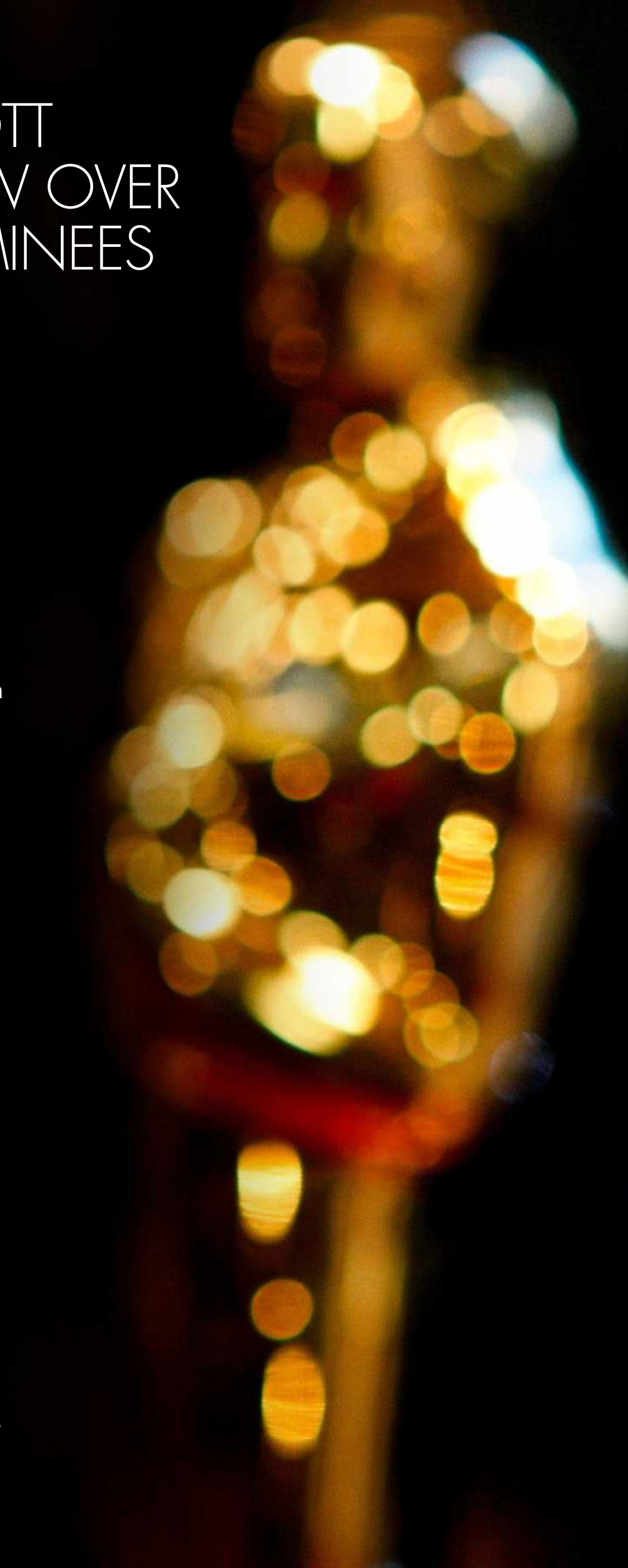
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CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF OSCARS GROW OVER DIVERSITY OF NOMINEES



Calls for a boycott of the Academy Awards are growing over the Oscars' second straight year of all-white acting nominees, as Spike Lee and Jada Pinkett Smith each said Monday that they will not attend this year's ceremony.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Lee said he "cannot support" the "lily white" Oscars. Noting that he was writing on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lee - who in November was given an honorary Oscar at the Governors Awards - said he was fed up: "Forty white actors in two years and no flava at all," he wrote. "We can't act?!"

In a video message on Facebook, Pinkett Smith also said she wouldn't attend or watch the Oscars in February. Pinkett Smith, whose husband Will Smith wasn't nominated for his performance in the NFL head trauma drama "Concussion," said it was time for people of color to disregard the Academy Awards.

"Begging for acknowledgement, or even asking, diminishes dignity and diminishes power," she said. "And we are a dignified people and we are powerful."



She added: "Let's let the academy do them, with all grace and love. And let's do us differently." The video had amassed 4.5 million by mid-Monday afternoon.

Last year's all-white acting nominees also drew calls for a boycott, though not from such prominent individuals as Lee and Pinkett Smith. Whether it had any impact or not, the audience for the broadcast, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, was down 16 percent from the year prior, a six-year low.

This year, Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences President Cheryl Boone Isaacs has made a point of presenting a more inclusive show. The Feb. 28 broadcast will be hosted by Chris Rock and produced by "Django Unchained" producer Reginald Hudlin and David Hill. On Saturday, Rock, unveiling a new promotion for the broadcast, called the ceremony "The White BET Awards."

The academy didn't respond to messages left Monday.

When Oscar nominations were announced Thursday, Isaacs acknowledged she was "disappointed" that all 20 acting nominees were again white. Isaacs has worked to diversify membership for the academy, which a 2012 study by the Los Angeles Times found is overwhelming white and male.











Many awards handicappers expected nominations for Idris Elba of "Beasts of No Nation" and Benicio Del Toro for "Sicario." The N.W.A. biopic "Straight Outta Compton" also failed to earn a best picture nomination, despite some predictions it would. Ryan Coogler's acclaimed Rocky sequel "Creed" scored only a nomination only for Sylvester Stallone. (Lee's own movie, the Chicago gang violence hip-hop musical "Chi-Raq" - celebrated by some and scorned by others - also went unnoticed.)

The hashtag "OscarsSoWhite," created last year, was quickly resurrected online following the nominations. Rev. Al Sharpton - who last year met with former Sony head Amy Pascal following leaked emails that some viewed as racist - on Friday lambasted the academy.

"Hollywood is like the Rocky Mountains, the higher up you get the whiter it gets and this year's Academy Awards will be yet another Rocky Mountain Oscar," said Sharpton.

In his post, Lee made it clear the Academy Awards is only part of the problem in an industry with deep-rooted diversity issues. In his Governors Awards speech, Lee said "It's easier to be the president of the United States as a black person than be the head of a studio."

"The Academy Awards is not where the 'real' battle is," wrote Lee on Tuesday. "It's in the executive office of the Hollywood studios and TV and cable networks. This is where the gate keepers decide what gets made and what gets jettisoned to 'turnaround' or scrap heap. This is what's important. The gate keepers. Those with 'the green light' vote."

RESEARCHERS CONFIRM SITE OF HANGINGS FOR SALEM WITCH TRIALS

A team of researchers using historical documents and 21st-century archaeological techniques has confirmed the site where 19 innocent people were hanged during the Salem witch trials more than three centuries ago.

The site, known as Proctor's Ledge, is a small city-owned plot of woods nestled between two residential streets and behind a Walgreens pharmacy, said Salem State University history professor Emerson "Tad" Baker, a member of the seven-person team, which announced its findings this week.

Historian Sidney Perley had pinpointed Proctor's Ledge nearly a century ago as the site of the hangings by using historical documents, but his findings were lost to time, and myth, misconceptions and conspiracy theories had taken their place, Baker said.

The current research, known as the Gallows Hill Project, was about correcting the misinformation many people have about one of the most tragic episodes in American history.

"We are not discovering anything, and we don't want to take credit for that," he said. "This is all about the healing, not about the discovery."

Twenty people suspected of witchcraft were killed in Salem in 1692 during a frenzy stoked by superstition, fear of disease and strangers, and petty jealousies. Nineteen were hanged, and one man was crushed to death by rocks.

"The witch trials cast a long dark shadow on Salem history," Baker said.

The top of nearby Gallows Hill had long been thought of as the site of the hangings, but there was no evidence to support that, Baker said. Proctor's Ledge is at the base of Gallows Hill.

To determine the spot, the team looked at eyewitness accounts of the hangings, then used modern-day aerial photography and ground penetrating radar not available a century ago.

The team made other interesting discoveries. They determined there probably never was a gallows at the site. More than likely, the executioners tossed a rope over a large tree.

Baker also stressed that there is no evidence that any of the victims were buried at Proctor's Ledge - it's too rocky and the soil is too shallow.

"I think knowing the exact location where the executions took place is important because we want to get history right," Mayor Kim Driscoll said. "It's also an opportunity to come together and recognize the injustice and tragedy."

The city plans to place a marker at the site but also wants to respect the rights of the people who live in the area, the mayor said. The city doesn't want visitors tramping through private backyards looking for the spot, she said.

Instead, she encourages visitors to go to the memorial and museum downtown.

Baker said a memorial at the site is important.

"We need to have that exact spot marked so it can never be lost again," he said.

Online: http://bit.ly/1U0HB0q

LOOKING AHEAD WITH JOHN LEGEND: GRAMMYS, GOSLING AND A BABY



John Legend is his own worst enemy at next month's Grammy Awards.

The singer is nominated twice for best rap/sung collaboration for his Oscar-winning hit "Glory" alongside Common and "One Man Can Change the World," a collaboration with Kanye West and Big Sean.

"It's kind of hard ... I don't know how to even think about it," Legend said.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, the 37-year-old performer talked about his new film with Ryan Gosling, writing new music, fatherhood and the Grammys, to be held Feb. 15 in Los Angeles.





GRAMMY FAMILY

Legend, who has won nine Grammys, is grateful for the four nominations he received this year.

"You can't bank on the Grammys because every year is different, there's a lot of people voting (and) there's a lot of great competition," he said.

In addition to best rap/sung collaboration, Legend is nominated for best rap song and song written for visual media for "Glory," from the film "Selma."

As for picking which of his songs should win the Grammy, he says, "hopefully people vote for the song they think is the best and we'll see who wins."

A win for the collaboration with West and Big Sean would give West, who has four nominations this year, his 22nd gramophone.

SPEAKING OF KANYE

Like other music fans, Legend is anticipating West's upcoming album, "Swish."

"I was in the studio with him about a year ago, but he's done so much probably since then that I have no idea where it is now," he said of his longtime mentor and collaborator. "I'm like another fan. I'm just excited to hear how it comes out!"

Image: Todd Wawrychuk

SPEAKING OF MENTORS

Legend, who worked as a mentor with the AXE Collective at the South by Southwest music festival last year, is partnering with the company for its new campaign, "Find Your Magic." It will give young musicians and filmmakers a chance to collaborate with the singer by submitting video of a film or music performance to AXE's website.

"It's all about ... expressing who you are as an individual creatively, showing your unique voice and hopefully we'll give the best folks the opportunity to be seen by a larger audience and heard," Legend said.





SPEAKING OF FILMS

Legend, who had a nonspeaking role in 2008's "Soul Men," will finally get to speak - and sing - in the upcoming Hollywood musical film "La La Land," starring Gosling and Emma Stone.

"It was comfortable because most of my scenes were in settings I'm used to being in as a musician, but having to learn dialogue and improvise and play off of Ryan a lot, it was really an education for me," said Legend, who learned to play the guitar for the role.

More acting and production is on the horizon for Legend with his production house, Get Lifted Film Co.

"We have a new TV series coming out in March called 'Underground' (on WGN America). We were part of the production team for 'La La Land.' We've also executive-produced a documentary on HBO called 'Southern Rites,'" he said.

TAKING A BACKSEAT

Though he's between albums, Legend is still burning up the charts, thanks to Meghan Trainor. (They share the same manager.)

Their duet, "Like I'm Gonna Lose You," released in June, is still in the Top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. And Legend didn't write the song - a rarity for the respected songwriter.

"I tend to sing my own songs because I love to write songs and I feel like I know how to write for myself more than other people, but when Meghan sent it to me, I was like, 'Wow, this song is beautiful. I'd love to do it.' And that's really all it took," Legend said.

"I really respect her as a songwriter and an artist," he said of the "All About That Bass" performer.

ALL ABOUT THAT BABY

Despite his projects - from music to film - Legend has a bigger priority coming soon: fatherhood.

His wife, model Chrissy Teigen, is pregnant with their first child, a girl, due later this year.

"It's never going to be completely easy, but I think she's taken it in stride and we're enjoying it, and we're excited to welcome our new little girl to the world," Legend said.

He said fatherhood and marriage is spilling over to the music he's writing for his upcoming album.

"Just trying to make an album that encompasses all that I am," he said.

Online: **http://www.johnlegend.com/**



SCIENCE



SUPPORT LEG BREAKS AS SPACEX ROCKET LANDS ON OCEAN BARGE

After successfully delivering a U.S.-European ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit, a Space X rocket made a hard landing on a floating barge in the roiling Pacific, breaking a support leg and toppling over Sunday.

SpaceX announcers said the first stage of the Falcon 9 was not upright after reaching the 300-by-170 foot landing pad in choppy seas about 200 miles west of San Diego.

The rocket launched as planned at 10:42 a.m. from Vandenberg Air Force Base, northwest of Los Angeles, streaking through a cloud-filled sky before eventually sending its second stage and a Jason-3 satellite into orbit.

The failed landing was a setback for the Hawthorne, California, company's plan to reduce launch costs by reusing rockets rather than having them fall into the ocean. Meteorologists predicted swells of 10- to 13-feet where the barge waited for the landing attempt.

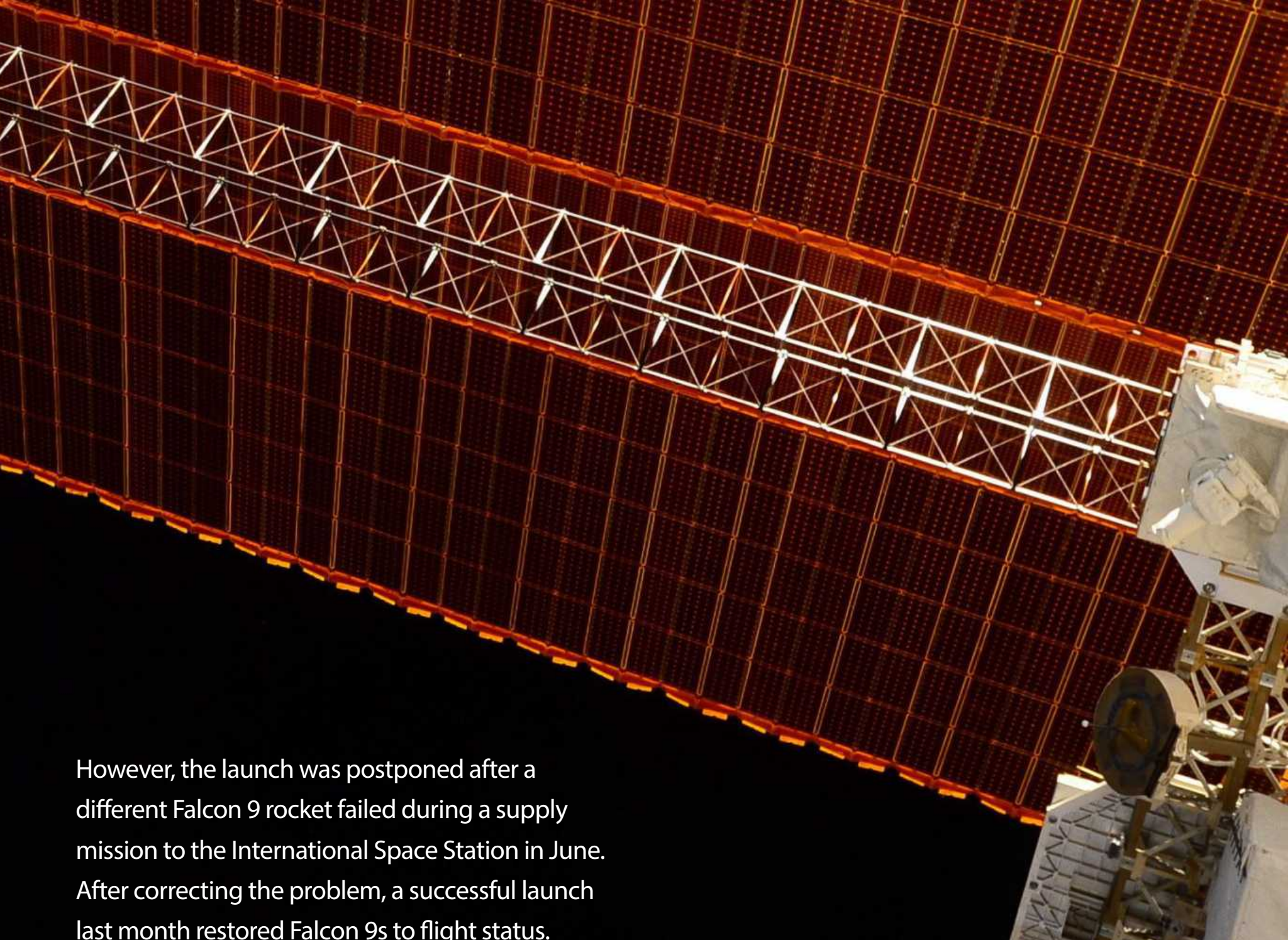


SpaceX founder Elon Musk said on Twitter that the rocket's speed at touchdown was OK, "but a leg lockout didn't latch, so it tipped over after landing."

Two previous attempts to land a rocket on a barge in the Atlantic failed, but last month SpaceX succeeded in returning a rocket to a vertical landing at Cape Canaveral, Florida, after putting a cluster of satellites into orbit.

Meanwhile NASA said Jason-3 was "ready for science operations" after it reached orbit and had its solar arrays deployed. The satellite's mission is to continue an unbroken record of more than two decades of sea level measurements from orbit. As the current El Nino in the eastern Pacific has strengthened, Jason-3 had been stuck on the ground.

Jason-3's launch was originally scheduled for August 2015 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.



However, the launch was postponed after a different Falcon 9 rocket failed during a supply mission to the International Space Station in June. After correcting the problem, a successful launch last month restored Falcon 9s to flight status.

Like its predecessors, Jason-3 is equipped with radar altimeter to bounce microwave energy off the ocean and a GPS system to identify the satellite's precise location. Timing of how long it takes the signal to return indicates sea level height, which rises or falls depending on the temperature of the water.

The data collected can detect the weather-altering El Nino condition and its opposite, La Nina, and are most familiar to the public in images of the Pacific Ocean that use colors to illustrate variations in heat. Other pragmatic uses include measuring global sea level rise, and forecasting the strength of hurricanes, other severe weather and ocean conditions for the shipping industry and in response to oil spills.

Image: Ben Cooper



"Jason allows us to get the big picture in terms of sea-level change in the years to come," said Laury Miller, Jason-3 program scientist.

Jason-3 is a project of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA, the French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, and the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites. It was built by Thales Alenia of France.

Jason-3 will ultimately replace Jason-2, which has been in orbit since mid-2008 and has been tracking the current El Nino that experts say has tied the 1997-98 version as the strongest recorded and is expected to last through the winter before weakening in spring.

Despite being in its eighth year and only designed to last five, Jason-2 "is still in great shape," Jason-3 project scientist Josh Willis said. After being used to help calibrate the new satellite, Jason-2 will be moved to an orbit to study the shape of the sea floor.

The series of spacecraft began with Topex-Poseidon, which operated from 1992 to 2006. Topex, short for ocean surface topography experiment, revolutionized understanding of the role of ocean temperature on climate. Its successor, Jason-1, operated from 2001 until it was decommissioned in 2013.

Mission scientists emphasized at a prelaunch briefing that it was important to maintain a continuous record of global sea level variation.

Hans Koenigsmann, vice president of mission assurance for SpaceX, said previously that the current rocket would have been able to return to land, but the company does not have environmental approval at Vandenberg yet.

The cost of the mission, including five years of operation, was put at $180 million.

Health

FIRST LADY, SCHOOL MEAL DIRECTORS MAY BE HEADED FOR TRUCE





Image: © Carlos Barria / Reuters



A bipartisan Senate bill released Monday would revise healthier meal standards put into place over the last few years to give schools more flexibility in what they serve the nation's schoolchildren, easing requirements on whole grains and delaying an upcoming deadline to cut sodium levels on the lunch line.

While the legislation would placate some schools that have complained the rules are burdensome, it is greatly scaled back from an unsuccessful 2014 House Republican effort to allow schools to opt out of the rules entirely. The Senate Agriculture Committee is scheduled to vote on the measure on Wednesday.

After more than two years of public quarreling, the bill signals a possible truce for a group of school nutrition directors and first lady Michelle Obama, an outspoken propoWnent of healthier eating during her husband's seven years in office.

The School Nutrition Association, which represents school nutrition directors and companies that sell food to schools, said it is supportive of the legislation written by Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and the committee's top Democrat, Sen. Debbie Stabenow of Michigan.

"In the absence of increased funding, this agreement eases operational challenges and

provides school meal programs critical flexibility to help them plan healthy school meals that appeal to students," the association's president, Jean Ronnei, said.

The White House has yet to weigh in, but committee aides said the administration was involved as they wrote the bill and is expected to be supportive. The aides declined to be identified because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the legislation.

The five-year Senate legislation would scale back the whole grain standards to require that 80 percent of grains on the lunch line must be whole grain rich, or more than half whole grain. Currently, all grains are required to be whole grain rich, though some schools are now allowed to get waivers from that requirement.

Schools had said the whole grain rules were too tough in some cases, as whole grain pasta is harder to cook and some kids don't like it as much. Southern schools had problems finding tasty whole grain biscuits and grits; schools in the Southwest said their students rejected whole grain tortillas.

The new rule will allow schools to serve some of the refined grain items at least once a week.

The legislation would delay stricter standards on sodium that are scheduled for the 2017 school year. They would now be delayed two years, and a study would measure the benefits of those reductions.

Some schools had said they will have to take popular items off their menus if the 2017 levels go into effect.



Image: Chuck Kennedy

The legislation would also require the government to figure out how to reduce waste of fruits and vegetables, which children are now required to take on the lunch line. Some just throw them away.

The bill requires the Agriculture Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to come up with solutions like sharing tables where children can leave food they don't want. Some local health authorities have discouraged that approach.

The legislation would also put more resources into summer feeding programs and attempt to expand the ways in which those foods are served.

The rules phased in since 2012 set fat, calorie, sugar and sodium limits on foods in the lunch line and beyond. Schools have long been required to follow government nutrition rules if they accept federal reimbursements for free and reduced-price meals for low-income students, but the new standards are stricter.

The compromise seemed impossible just a year and a half ago, when the association aggressively lobbied against the administration's standards and backed the GOP effort to allow schools to opt out of them. The first lady held a rare event at the White House, calling out the School Nutrition Association by name. She said she would fight "until the bitter end" to keep the rules intact.

Supporters of the Senate bill are hoping that an agreement among the formerly feuding parties could influence the House.



Image: Hans Pennink

CLINTON SAYS FBI HAS NOT CONTACTED HER ABOUT EMAILS

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton says the FBI has not contacted her regarding its probe of whether she held classified information on her private email server.

Asked on CNN's "State of the Union" whether she had been interviewed by the FBI yet, the former secretary of state replied, "No."

She did not elaborate.

Federal investigators are looking into the security of Clinton's email setup amid concerns from the intelligence community's inspector general that classified information may have passed through the system. Clinton provided the server to the FBI in August.

Clinton has said she didn't send or receive information that was classified at the time via her personal email account.





WIKIPEDIA GETS ANOTHER SOURCE OF CASH FOR 15TH BIRTHDAY

Wikipedia is getting another source of cash for its 15th birthday, expanding beyond fundraising drives that have already poured $250 million into the Internet's leading encyclopedia.

The additional money will come from a new endowment created for Wikipedia, whose website started Jan. 15, 2001, and is now overseen by the nonprofit Wikimedia Foundation in San Francisco.

The Wikimedia Endowment will start with less than $1 million donated by the estate of Jim Pacha, a software engineer who died in 2014, and then build toward a goal of accumulating $100 million by 2026. Wikipedia won't begin drawing money from the endowment after it's fully funded.

Wikipedia still plans to ask its users to donate money to keep advertising off its website. The additional income from the endowment will help insulate Wikipedia from economic turmoil and other potential threats to its survival, said Lisa Gruwell, chief advancement officer for the Wikimedia Foundation.

"We have a great fundraising model right now, but things on the Internet change so it's not something we can count on forever," Gruwell said. "Wikipedia is a pretty rare thing, and the endowment is there to ensure this cultural treasure will never go away."

Since starting out as an experimental patchwork of information, Wikipedia has turned into indispensable tool for hundreds of millions of people looking to quickly answer questions covering everything from schlock to science.

Satisfying all that curiosity has become increasingly expensive as Wikimedia has spent more on the computers, software and other technology that keeps Wikipedia running. The foundation's staff has also swelled from just a handful of people in its early days to about 300 employees today.

Wikipedia, though, gets all its material for free from about 80,000 volunteer editors around the world. The site's index now spans 36 million entries in 280 languages.

Wikipedia's growth has spurred criticism that its parent foundation has become bloated and doesn't need to raise so much money.

Wikimedia generated revenue of $76 million while its operating expenses totaled about $53 million in its last fiscal year ending June 30. The $23 million surplus contributed to the



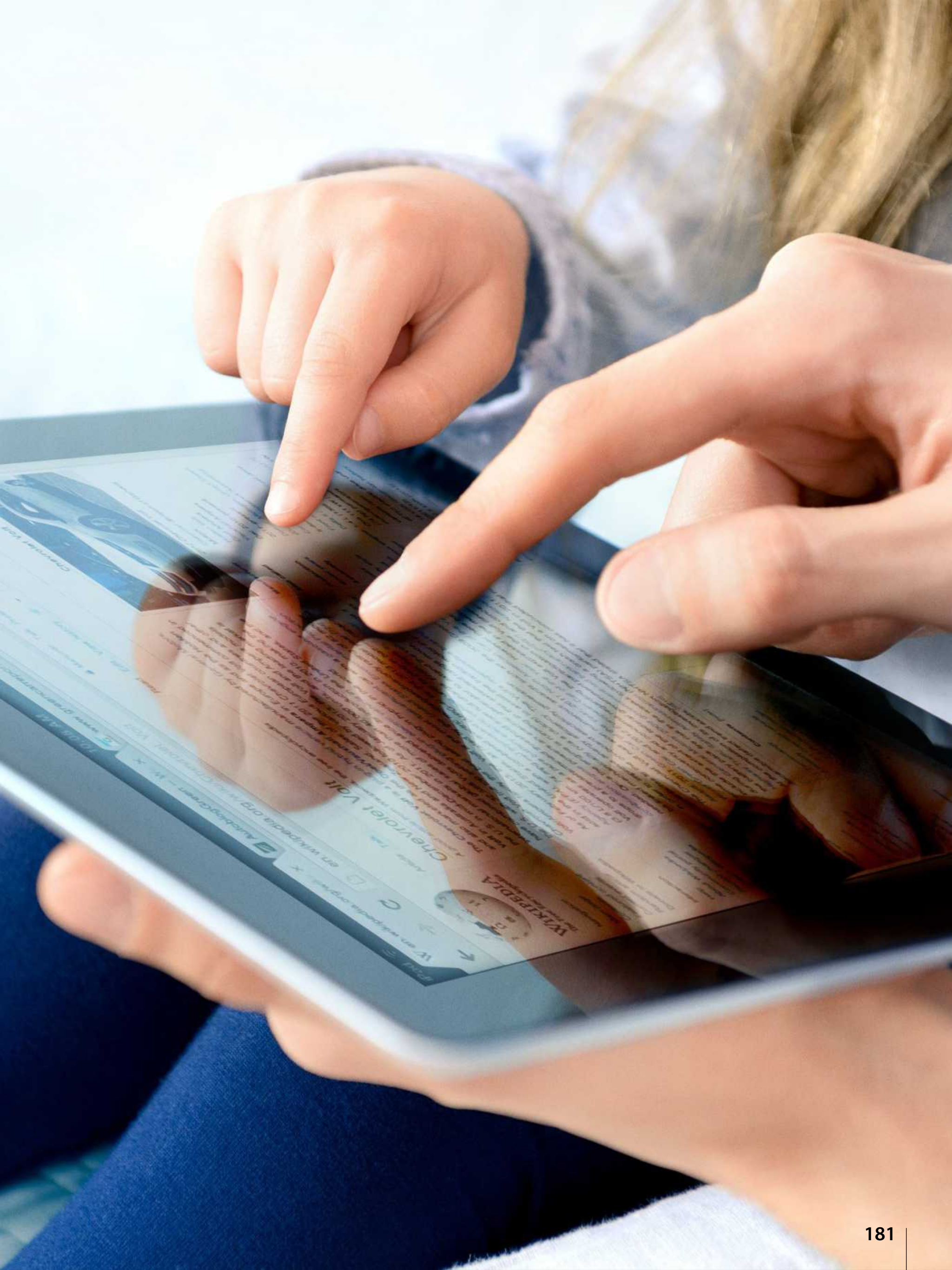




Image: Lane Hartwell

foundation's cushion of about $65 million in cash and short-term investments - enough to cover its projected operating expenses for all of the current fiscal year.

Wikipedia still posted notices at the top of its website throughout December asking its U.S. users to donate money in a campaign that raised another $30 million. That money will go toward Wikipedia's future expenses, Gruwell said.

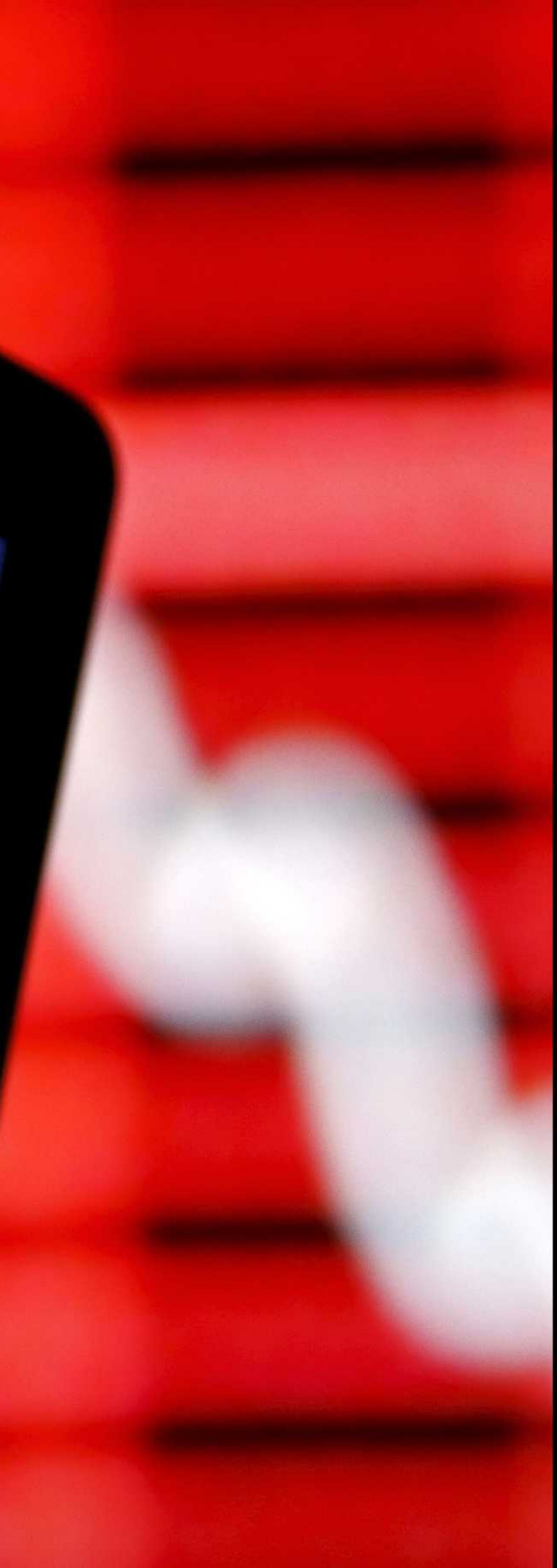
Wikimedia is "very good at begging for money, but the bottom line is they could go another 10 years without raising another dime," said Eric Barbour, a former Wikipedia editor who is working on a book about the encyclopedia and Wikimedia's business practices.

Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales says the recurring fundraising campaigns and future money from the endowment are needed to run one of the Internet's busiest websites and realize its ambition to become even more comprehensive as more people get online.

Wikipedia attracts the seventh most traffic in the world, according to the rankings of tracking service Alexa. All the other websites more popular than Wikimedia are run by profit-driven companies, including Google, Facebook and Amazon.com, that employ thousands of employees.

"We stay very mission-driven," Wales said. "One of the things that we are focused on is the idea of having an encyclopedia available for every person in the world in their own language. As you go in that direction, these (requests for money) are some of things you need to do to build that long-term dream."

Image: Zenica



TWITTER DISRUPTION SILENCES SWATHS OF US, EUROPE

Some Twitter users had to do without early Tuesday after sporadic outages knocked the social media site offline in the U.S. and Europe.

Reports of malfunctions began to appear in the U.S. as well, but it was unclear how widespread the outages were. By mid-morning on the East Coast, desktop and mobile versions of Twitter appeared to be working, though the company wouldn't say if they were back to normal.

A company spokeswoman also wouldn't reveal any details as to the possible cause of the outage, declining to comment beyond Twitter's tweeted statement.

Twitter Inc. which has 320 million active users, tweeted that it is aware of the issue and is trying to fix it. Its most recent notice was sent around 4 a.m. Eastern.

Users said the service was not accessible on desktop computers. Twitter's blog posts, corporate info and most other pages on the Twitter.com website were also inaccessible, displaying the blue error screen.

There were complaints of users receiving a "server error" just before 8 a.m. Eastern.

Twitter's mobile app was partially functioning for some users but its timeline updated new tweets sporadically. Its search function appeared disabled as some hashtags or keyword searches returned no results. Users' profile pages appeared to be accessible from the mobile app.

Third party services, such as the TweetDeck service, also returned a blank page.

Twitter has suffered several service disruptions so far this year. On Monday, some users could not access Twitter on mobile and web for about 10 minutes. The service was disrupted on Friday for about 20 minutes.

The outages come at a time when Twitter and its executives are trying to convince Wall Street that they can deliver bigger revenue and profits. Meanwhile, the company's stock continues to languish at an all-time low. Twitter share have lost 66 percent of their value since peaking at $52.87 in April.

In morning trading Tuesday, Twitter shares fell 35 cents to $17.59.

For the latest updates on Twitter status:
status.twitter.com


9:37 AM

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